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Carlton set to become launch



By Bert van Bedaf

CARLTON will leave Optus Oval and play its remaining three home matches at Olympic Park.

The Melbourne club will retain its distinctive navy blue strip, but it will get a new name and continue to search for a new permanent home for next season.

Peter Jess, the chief executive of Network Sports Limited, the new owner of the Carlton Soccer Club, made the announcement before the Blues went down 3-1 to Sydney United last Sunday in their final match at the oval. Jess said the home match switch should not be regarded as a permanent move.

"We are also considering the Docklands and Bob Jane stadium as a playing venue for next season. A deci-

sion will be announced in the next eight weeks," he said.

There will be a name change for next season to make a clear break with the club's former association with the Carlton Football Club and give the new soccer club a fresh start.

"The club will assess the market direction regarding a new name," Jess said.

So far, possible names doing the rounds are Melbourne United or Melbourne Blues, but rival Ericsson Cup club Melbourne Knights has already indicated it will vigorously defend its right to the "Melbourne" name.

Jess also acknowledged the Carlton break was necessary to attract bigger support for the new club, saying the club needed

"re-branding to attract bigger crowds next season".

Carlton's remaining home games at Olympic Park are on March 14, the cracker against South Melbourne in round 24, March 28 against Marconi in round 26, and April 11 against Perth in round 28.

Accountant and high profile AFL player-manager Peter Jess heads a consortium of businessmen that bought out the club and clearly aims to make it one of the most powerful sporting organisations in the country. Jess made it clear that Carlton would not be run on passion and emotion, that would be left to the supporters.

"It's a business, sport is a business and the people on the board know the sports business," he said after legal documents were signed.

"We aim to have the most finely tuned engine in the paddock," he told *Inside Soccer*.

The consortium paid \$1.5million for the club and will have a start-up capital base of \$5million. Up to \$500,000 of that money will go to Soccer Australia as a licensing fee as the federation regards the takeover as the start of a new club.

Carlton is prepared to spend to improve its squad and Jess aims to bring a high profile player from Europe next season, possibly on loan. He also made it clear that Carlton will become a launching pad for players who want to make their mark in Europe.



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No direct path for Oceania

By Sri Krishnamurthi
in Auckland

THE Oceania Football Confederation will continue to be denied direct entry into the soccer World Cup finals until it meets open-ended guidelines set down by the world body, FIFA president Sepp Blatter said in New Zealand last weekend.

Blatter was in New Zealand to open the Oceania Football Academy in Auckland but he offered little hope to Oceania teams for direct entry although he suggested that he would like to see Oceania stage the World Cup in 2014 - with Australia the probable host.

Despite an impassioned plea by FIFA's Oceania delegate Charlie Dempsey that the time had come for Oceania to be granted a direct route to the World Cup, Blatter said Oceania's passage to the 2002 finals was unlikely to be changed.

"It is a question I would like to defer to the future when Oceania become a fully recognised confederation and that doesn't concern participation in all our competitions but other rights as well."



Sepp Blatter

sation and the quality of its football," Blatter said.

"When it does that, then it should have direct entry to the World Cup finals."

He said the FIFA executive committee will discuss direct entry.

"I make no promises but a confederation once recognised should have the same rights as the other confederations and that doesn't concern participation in all our competitions but other rights as well."

Dempsey said it was high time Oceania was given due consideration.

"Europe have 14-1/2 chances to make the finals, South America have 4-1/2. As Oceania representative I will keep asking Europe if they will concede their half chance so that Oceania can gain direct qualification," Dempsey said.

"Oceania have reached a stage where as a confederation we should have a place at the World Cup."

"As it stands the top Oceania nation has to play the fifth South American team and whichever way you look at it, that is unfair."

And Blatter has also confirmed his personal support for the 2006 World Cup to be played in Africa.

"In 2006 there will be one single association backed by one single country to host the World Cup," he said.

"We will not go into a co-hosted World Cup in that year until after we've seen the experience of 2002 (co-hosted by South Korea and Japan).

"I am advocating, and I will repeat it here that the World Cup shall be available for all continents."

"So far it has been alternated between the Americas and Europe, more so in Europe."

"He said if hosting the World Cup went clockwise from the United States (1994) to Europe (France 1998) and Asia (South Korea/Japan 2002) then it transpired that the next stop should logically be Africa."

"If ever one of the African competitors fulfils

the basic conditions to organise the World Cup, and we will know this year when inspections of facilities are made, then I favour it to be organised by an African country."

South Africa, Nigeria, Morocco and Egypt have applied while Ghana's joint-bid including seven other countries has foundered.

Blatter said if the rotation was continued then the 2010 tournament should be held in South America where it was last hosted by Argentina back in 1978.

"Then we envisage that in 2014 Oceania should have it and in 2018 it should again go to North America and then back to Europe."

"It is another reason why we should think about a World Cup every two years instead of four."

"But we have to ask the players if they want it and secondly if the public wants it before anything can be done."

He said while Johansson and UEFA weren't happy they hadn't shut the door on the idea.

No thanks, Roy

By Doug Conway

IF ROY Hodgson becomes the next Socceroo coach, and he stresses he hasn't been asked, he would almost certainly base himself in Australia, unlike Terry Venables.

Venables, widely criticised for running the national team from London, defended his stance on the grounds that most of his Socceroos played their club football in Europe.

Hodgson, the former Inter Milan and Blackburn Rovers coach said to be high in the reckoning for the vacant Australian job, believes it would be preferable to have a coach based in Australia travelling abroad frequently rather than the other way around.

Describing Venables as a "top-class coach and a top-class person", he said he did not know how Venables went about his job or what his man-

date was.

"But if you're asking me whether I think an international manager's job could be done on a part-time basis, or could be done from afar, I'd have to say I don't think it could."

"My gut reaction is you would have to be on the scene."

Hodgson, who took Switzerland to the 1994 World Cup finals, said he would like to be involved with at least one more major event, whether it was a World Cup, a European championship or an Olympic Games.

"I enjoy being part of the big scene," he said.

"Also I can't deny I enjoy the job of being a national team coach."

Hodgson, in Sydney for the World Science and Football Congress, had dinner last weekend with Soccer Australia chairman Basil Scarsella and other SA officials.

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ANSWER: see Ram Scoreboard, p30.

But he said their discussion was a general one, and he had not been offered the Australian job which fell vacant after Venables failed to take Australia to last year's World Cup in France.

"They might make it an option for me, and they might not," Hodgson said.

"That's something maybe I'll find out before I leave Australia."

Hodgson is also reckoned to be on the shortlist for the England coach's job if part-timer Kevin Keegan decides not to continue.

"It would be false modesty to say I don't think I have a chance of being considered," he said.

"But at the moment it's conjecture on both counts. So until something really concrete comes up, I don't have to worry my head about it."

Hodgson said he was flattered that SA had sounded out his ideas, and by publicity that he might be a possible candidate for the Socceroo job.

"That's very flattering," he said, "because Australia is a big sporting country with, in my opinion, a very maturing football team."

Hodgson in directly answering questions, he has had several talks with soccer Australia officials over the last two weeks and has been a regular visitor to their Paddington HQ.

Sydney United's David Mitchell is still a popular figure with general Australian soccer fans while another strong favourite is Sydney Olympic coach Branko Culina.

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Blatter backs down on two yearly World Cup

By Erica Bulman

FIFA President Sepp Blatter has backed down on his controversial plan for a World Cup every two years and said the international soccer calendar had to be reorganised first if the idea was to become reality.

The head soccer's world governing body met for almost two hours last week with the head of European soccer, Lennart Johansson.

The Swede has opposed the plan because it threatens the prominence of the European Championship and European club competitions.

UEFA President Johansson said he was still doubtful about the idea although he hadn't ruled it out.

"UEFA has not closed the door," he said.

"It still does not support the idea, but it has not closed the door."

"The FIFA family would not impose a competition if it didn't serve football's interest."

Blatter, who seems to be using a gentler touch

after initially pushing hard for a biennial World Cup, said harmonising the world calendar would take about 18 months and had to come first.

"I'm going to present the idea to the executive committee," Blatter said after meeting with Johansson, his great rival who opposed him last year for the FIFA presidency.

"They have a right to know what went on here."

"But I'm not going to take it to a vote."

"The international calendar is now the top item."

"We have not withdrawn the idea of having a World Cup every two years, we have just put it in the backyard."

Johansson, who was angered when Blatter first floated the idea late last year without consulting him seemed on better terms with Blatter, who has suggested the first two-year World Cup could not be held before 2009.

But Johansson, the head of the most powerful of soccer's continental

federations and the supplier of almost half the 32 teams in the quadrennial World Cup, showed he had not been won over.

Though the plan has many sceptics in Europe, it has been supported in Asia and Africa.

"We're still not convinced it's a good idea," he said. "He (Blatter) is not going to drop the idea," Johansson added.

"We agreed we needed to talk about the calendar and to study it before addressing the idea of a World Cup every two years."

Johansson also thanked Blatter for apologising and admitting he was wrong.

"On our side we were very unhappy not to be fully informed on the project of the World Cup every two years," Johansson said. "The FIFA president said he regrets the way it went."

"The important thing is that a decision was not taken now," Johansson said.

"It's the sign of a great president to admit he made a mistake."



Johansson and Blatter: the Swede has won Round 2 – but the battle obviously isn't over

Olympics to be scrapped

FIFA IS studying plans to hold a World Cup every two years for the under-23 age group, Brazil's top soccer official was quoted as saying on the weekend.

Ricardo Teixeira, president of Brazil's soccer federation, the CBF, said the tournament could coincide with the axing of soccer at the Olympics.

Teixeira, said the Olympics soccer tournament - an U23 event with three "wild card" exemptions - would be staged in Sydney 2000 but is set to be scrapped in 2004.

FIFA and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) have disputed the future of soccer at the Olympics since 1992, amid FIFA refusals to drop the age limit.

Teixeira is vice-president of FIFA's executive committee and sits on five other of its committees, CBF spokesman Ana-Lucia Rangel said.

He was unavailable for comment today.

And SBS TV will exclusively broadcast the World Youth Soccer Championships from April 3 - 24.

The Australian TV company made the announcement last Friday.

SBS has covered the World Youth Championships since 1993, when they were host broadcaster.

This season SBS discontinued its major coverage of Australian soccer after losing the Ericsson Cup rights to Channel 7.

FEBRUARY FIFA rankings

1. Brazil 827 points
2. France 786
3. Croatia 742
4. Italy 742
5. Germany 738
6. Argentina 732
7. Czech Republic 727
8. Netherlands 716
9. Spain 706
10. Romania 698
11. England 695
12. Mexico 688
13. Norway 676
14. Sweden 659
15. Denmark 653
16. Yugoslavia 649
17. Portugal 641
18. Austria 631
19. Morocco 629
20. Chile 614
26. Scotland 599
33. South Korea 566
34. Japan 566
50. Australia 518
67. N Ireland 465
74. Wales 445
101. New Zealand 355

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Inside Soccer PAGE 3



Bruce Campbell

IT'S ONLY AN OPINION

IT SEEMS that more people than I give credit actually read this column if the response to my comments last week on press releases are any guide.

For the record our Corinal office has been hit by a flurry of faxes from South Melbourne, Northern Spirit and Adelaide City.

That still leaves a few clubs out there who are in the illustrious category of never having sent a press release to *Inside Soccer* this season; Perth Glory, Canberra Cosmos and Brisbane Strikers.

Still, you never know.....

SO Uncle Sepp is at it again.

In New Zealand for a bit of junket (how can you call opening a soccer academy anything else?) he has suggested that Australia be a venue for the 2014 World Cup.

I don't know about you but I start to yawn a little when I read his quotes these days.

It seems that every country Blatter visits is an ideal venue for a future World Cup.

But what about the current one?

And what realistic chance has Australia got of being a host country - we can't even get a straight path to the World Cup finals via Oceania.

Maybe Sepp's dynamic and charismatic personality has swept all journos before him, maybe they are bowled over by his Teutonic sincerity.

Me? I suffer the cynicism of a thousand years of Celtic oppression.

Because of that I believe that Herr Blatter is as sincere as my chances of being picked to play left wing for Scotland when THEY host the World Cup.

LEEDS United's Alan Hill doesn't want to fall out with the Australian soccer authorities??!

What planet are you living on, son?

Your name, and that of your club, is wedged somewhere in the warm, slimy, wet holes that snails crawl into.

It's sad, because as a boy growing up in early 60s Britain (before the folks forked over the twenty quid and we all jumped on board the good ship Fairstar) Leeds were definitely in my list of the BEST.

I can still recall a whole host of their stars including Gary Sprake, Billy Bremner, Norman Hunter and Eddie Gray.

Then there was Peter Lorimer much later on and Joe Jordan.

Jordan the magnificent.

Alan, I can only imagine that it has something to do with your surname, because you are not the only member of that particular clan who doesn't listen to what others are saying.

Then again maybe you can't hear

because you are too busy believing your own press.

Another Clan Hill disease.

AT LAST Carlton have sealed the deal which they hope will take them into the next century.

I hope so.

The Melbourne new guys have done so much in such a short space of time.

But somehow I think that they will have to come up with something devastatingly brilliant to draw back the big Melbourne crowds.

It really wasn't that long ago that Melbourne was nearly always on the top of the NSL attendance records.

Now it seems that Ericsson Cup figures in the southern city have shaded off.

I suppose it is a cyclical thing but it must be of great concern to those who are trying to match it with Perth Glory and Northern Spirit.

I CAN ONLY say that I don't think it would have happened if Peter Russell was still full time with the ASF.

I slip that in before the Wolves send me my piece of humble pie after they announced the signing of the two Tahitian internationals last week.

I will go on record as saying that the day when we open our visa player vacancies for players in countries ranked in the bottom twenty of the FIFA world rankings IS the day we are a THIRD RATE soccer country.

Should Soccer Australia and the Department of Immigration grant sporting visa status to the pair then I am totally bemused.

Neither player possesses the credentials required by SA in the days when Peter Russell was running that department with an iron, but fair, love.

Again, for the record, I wish the players the very best should they fulfil their ambitions.

As I have said countless times to a great many people you can never blame the players.

I am sure that both are extremely likeable young men who only want to play football at the highest standard open to them.

It is just a great pity that the standards of yesterday are being swept aside.

But then again maybe part of the Ericsson Cup is becoming third rate in playing standard.

And I am sure that while the lesson to be learned may be stalled temporarily but in the end it will be all the harder learnt.

In the meantime I'll be interested to see if the stay-away spectators in Wollongong are fooled.

Kissing Goodbye to Soccerroo Career

AS WE all know Leeds United have angered all Australian soccer supporters by insisting young players who they sign from this country must declare for one of the British home countries.

Well I visited the Leeds home page last week and read one of their press releases.

It stated that the FAs of Ireland and England had been informed that none of Leeds Under 20 internationals would be released for the upcoming U20 World Cup in Nigeria.

So any youngster thinking of joining Leeds can pretty much kiss off an international career.

They should think twice as this narrow minded and selfish policy of Leeds is definitely to the disadvantage of the players who are being treated in an underhanded and dishonest fashion at a time when they are most vulnerable.

Leeds is not the only club in the world, there are currently over 100 Aussies playing abroad, and the majority of them were never asked to abandon their country.

Maybe it's time something was done to protect these kids, Soccer Australia and the Players Union should get off their backsides, but in the meantime the players

themselves and their advisers should carefully consider the dubious benefits of signing away their future Socceroo careers.

Phill Nelson
Warragamba NSW

Missing The Real News

I actually missed out on a copy of this week's issue, which is good in a way as it means somebody else here in Cooma, NSW has discovered you.

In the mean time I picked up a glossy mag with a half naked girl on the front, called *Total Sports*, sorry about that.

Unfortunately by missing this week's issue of *Inside Soccer* I have missed out on the real news in the Australian

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soccer scene.

You don't get much even from Johnny Warren and the other talking heads on Fridays on SBS, just a quick cursory coverage, which can be quite frustrating at times.

Not that I'm knocking SBS, it is really great that somebody somewhere is making the attempt.

There is one thing I would like to hear your opinion on.

Total Sports did an article on the forthcoming exhibition match between the Socceroos and the FIFA World XI, for the official opening of Stadium Australia, the Olympics game venue.

The writer, Anthony Raineri, gave a run down on the players to take part.

I didn't even know the players had been picked yet, the game isn't due until June 12, is he correct or is it just his own opinion?

I have written to Total Sports as well and maybe they will answer and maybe they won't - who knows.

The Squads do look great however, but having Mark Bosnich as first choice keeper for the Socceroos, looks a bit premature at this stage.

He hasn't played since what, September last year.

He sat on the bench for Aston Villa last week and yes, if fit, he is probably the best man for the job, only time will tell.

My hero Kevin Muscat gets a guernsey, which must put the fear of god into all of those European Managers who are allowing there multi million dollar stars to come here.

Most of the World XI pick themselves I believe, I won't get caught out by saying so and so is better than so and so and should be in the squad, I'm no

expert.

But I was a little disappointed that more locally based Aussies aren't in the Socceroo squad, only Trimboli (South Melbourne), Colosimo (Carlton) and Damien Mori from the Zebras.

Firstly, what is your opinion of the squad as it stands and secondly, is this the official list or just somebody's opinion.

In case you missed the squads as printed in Total Sports they were;

Socceroos: in a 3,4,3 arrangement

Goalkeeper; Bosnich.

Defenders; Craig Moore (Crystal Palace), Kevin Muscat (Wolverhampton Wanderers), Simon Colosimo.

Midfielders; Stan Lazaridis (West Ham), Ned Zelic (1860 Munich).

Attackers; Josip Skoko (Hayduks Split), Harry Kewell (Leeds).

Midfielders (again) I presume he meant Forwards; John Aloisi (Coventry), Trimboli and Mark Viduka (Celtic).

The reserves (his word not mine); Mark Schwarzer the back up goalie,

Tony Popovic and Hayden Foxe both playing in Japan, Paul Agostino also with 1860 Munich, and Mori.

FIFA's World XI

Goalkeeper; Jose Luis Chilavert (Paraguay).

Defenders; Paolo Maldini (Italy), Marcel Desailly (France), Roberto Carlos (Brazil).

Midfield; Hidetoshi Nakata (Japan), Zinedine Zidane (France), Augustine Okocha (Nigeria), Edgar Davids (The Netherlands).

Forwards; Michael Owen (England), Christian Vieri (Italy), but of course as much Aussie as most

players in the Socceroo squads of recent years), and Ronaldo (Brazil).

Reserves; Fabian Barthez (France), Lilian Thuram (France), Rivaldo (Brazil), Gabriel Batistuta (Argentina), and Davor Suker (Croatia)

Danny Stapleton Cooma, NSW

(FIFA would, under normal protocol, send out invitations to players to sus them out. Soccer Australia are doing the exact same thing.

After all, few of us know what we will be available for next month never mind three or four months down the track.

How could Australia pick a squad?

We don't even have a coach.

Maybe Anthony fancies his chances ...

If I could get somebody who would take a couple of bob on Christian Vieri actually playing for Aus-

tralia in this game I would stick it down - remember where you read it first when (if) it happens. - Ed.

Demanding Results

I am writing with reference to the letter last week by Darren Hughes.

It was well written and I fully understand his views.

I would like to add that to the details of the letter and comments made by Bruce Campbell saying that the National Leagues clubs are letting supporter down in Sydney, and have done for years.

The amount of news coming out of clubs like Olympic and Marconi, clubs who profess to be leading the best in the land, is downright unacceptable.

United is another kettle of fish, and even Spirit have been quiet.

I always felt that the electronic (mainly radio) and print media were at fault for not running soccer articles, but apparently, they too are starved of press releases.

It is good to hear results of Ericsson Cup games announced each Monday morning by 2UE in Sydney, but the general flow of information out of clubs is very poor, unless you read an ethnically based newspaper or club magazines at the various grounds.

I strongly feel that the various club publicity officers are either on another planet, not doing their jobs well, or targeting a very minor market.

Don't forget people, that publicity equates to interest, which leads to burns on seats, and more populated stadiums.

This in turn leads to greater utilisation of investment and capital tied up in stadiums and players etc., and a better bottom line.

I really can't believe that there is no news worth reporting from any of the Sydney Ericsson Cup clubs, especially when you see what dribble and trivial Rugby League news is served up in columns like "The last word" by Paul Kent in the Sun Herald, and "What's the Buzz", Phil Rothfield's column in the Sunday Telegraph.

Come on NSL clubs, start performance managing your PR teams, and demand results.

H Ross Panania

Overacting Players
I'VE loved the round ball game for many years but *Continued on page 19*

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Filan on the up at Blackburn

A hectic 2 month schedule finally took its toll on Blackburn Rovers last weekend, with the side tumbling to a 4-1 loss at home to Sheffield Wednesday.

Blackburn's Aussie keeper John Filan hasn't been on the receiving end of too many this season as he continues to thwart opposition attack, and he sees the 4-1 defeat as only a bit of a hiccup.

"We hit a bit of a glitch and we basically weren't in the game from the start," said Filan.

"It could have been a lot more to be quite honest - we've played a lot of games in a short space of time and eventually something like this is going to happen, but we'll bounce back, I mean everyone's going to have a bad game and over the past two months, apart from (that game), we've done really well."

Filan's form patch has made a lot of people in the UK sit up and take notice, none the least of whom is his current coach, Brian Kidd, who recently replaced Roy Hodgson at the helm of Blackburn Rovers.

It's a mutual admiration society, with Kidd opting to keep Filan in the #1 position in goal ahead of England custodian Tim Flower, and the Australian revelling in the starting eleven.

"I've just signed a lengthy contract with the club, which will see me here until the end of the season, plus another four seasons, which I'm very happy with," says the Socceroo.

"Everyone wants a berth in the starting eleven and I'm playing well enough to be given the starting position - I understand that Tim has asked for a transfer from the club in the past couple of weeks, and you can understand that, because the bottom line is, you just want to be in this side."

Off-field, being an Australian in the highly competitive English Leagues can be fraught with dressing room dangers as the boys are made "to feel at home", however John Filan is someone not even his team-mates are game to take on just yet.

"You'd think I'd get a bit of stick as the only

Aussie but the boys seem to leave me alone," he says.

"Maybe they're not too sure of my temperament - goalkeepers seem to have a bit of a reputation after all - but most of the stick is about sport and weather, and since they're English, they can't really give me a razz about that now can they!"

Blackburn's hectic schedule continued last

John's gaffe

AND John Filan hit the news last week for another reason - after making a gaffe about his eligibility to play for Ireland.

Despite his lowly status in the pecking order of Aussie keepers (currently rated behind Schwarzer, Bosnich, Kalac and Petkovic) Blackburn's Australian keeper John Filan was reported in the UK press as seeking a call-up from the Republic of Ireland - despite the fact he has already played soccer for Australia.

Filan, who played for Australia in the 1992 Olympics and who has also represented at full international level, would have been eligible for Irish selection through his grandfather.

According to a report in the Mirror newspaper Filan is keen to join Mick McCarthy's squad, following a successful season in the English premiership.



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Vlahos stars in Greek Cup tie

By Chris Lehouri (Courtesy Carlton SC)

ANDY VLAHOS was the bright spot for Panathinaikos in a Greek Cup tie, according to reports.

Panathinaikos coach Vasilis Daniil said the play of Vlahos was the best thing about last Thursday's 2-0 win over Panserraikos in the quarterfinals of the Greek Cup.

Vlahos, transferred several weeks ago from Ericsson Cup club Carlton, said he played good enough and had some chances to score and he believes that in the next game he will play even better.

Panathinaikos won the quarter final round 5-0 on aggregate and even although the Aussie didn't get on the scoresheet



Wolves sign French duo

WOLLONGONG Wolves have announced the signing of Tahitian internationals Benoit Michelena and Gerald Quennet.

The players have been signed for the remainder of the current season with an option to extend next season.

However, the registrations were not complete in time for the pair to be included in the squad for the Northern Spirit match at Brandon Park last Sunday.

Leeds: we're not the big bad wolf

By Louise Robson & Paul Millar

LEEDS United last week called for talks with Australian soccer bosses in an attempt to prevent more club versus country controversies.

Meanwhile the English Football Association (FA) dismissed an Australian threat to have a match result overturned in the latest showdown over footballing nationality.

Australian born and raised but signed by Leeds, Jamie McMaster played for England under 16s in a match last week Cyprus yesterday, scoring the winning goal.

The FA insists it has full international clearance for McMaster but Australian youth coach Les Scheinflug wants FIFA to dock England points for playing the teenager, who has not been cleared by Soccer Australia or the New South Wales Soccer Federation.

McMaster has played for Australia in an under 17 international friendly against Japan and Scheinflug fears his appearance for England could prevent any further call-up for Australia.

Leeds has an agreement with elite Sydney soccer



Scheinflug: "seething"

school Westfields High to recruit promising Australians with British parents and it encourages them to play for British international sides.

Leeds star Harry Kewell, who has an English father, chose to play for Australia but has had repeated problems over his release for the Socceroos and Olyroos.

But Leeds United youth coach Alan Hill today denied any coerc-

tion by the club and called on southern hemisphere countries to synchronise their competitions with the European football season.

"We work well with all the other European countries but we have a problem with South Africa and Australia," Hill said.

"What I'd like to do is have a meeting with the powers that be in Australia and put our point of view," Hill said.

The comments from

Aussie UK transfer latest

ON AGAIN off again for Crystal Palace's CRAIG MOORE is ... off again. A fortnight ago, Crystal Palace tried unsuccessfully to transfer Moore (pictured below) back to his former Club, Rangers in Scotland

This week, Birmingham City was the venue for the on-off deal, with Moore again knocked back, this time largely due to the fact that his wage would disrupt the pay scale at the club.

21-year-old Crystal Palace striker PAUL HARRIES has joined third division Torquay United on-loan for one month.

Harrises is a product of the NSW Institute of Sport and also had a stint at Portsmouth last season.

Second division Gillingham has reportedly taken an interest in West Bromwich Albion (WBA) defender JASON VAN BLERK as a loan signing.

WBA manager Denis Smith is not keen to lose the Australian however, and handed van Blerk his first senior game since the December 8 last year, in the weekend's 2-2 draw with Bristol City.

MIKE PANOPoulos was unable to suit up for Dundee United's Under-21 side on the 18th of February due to his international clearance not coming through in time.

Dundee United aims to sign the Aris Saloniaka mid-fielder on-loan until the end of the Scottish Premier League season, with a view to a permanent purchase.

Former Blacktown City defender BEN BLAKE has signed for Ryman Premier League club Harrow Borough.

Blake made his debut for the non-league club when he came off the bench in the 3rd Round of the Isthmian League Cup against Uxbridge last week.



City Fun

ADELAIDE City had a family fun day at South Parklands over the weekend.

The club's annual Fun Day in the Park gave local kids a chance to play against their heroes.

The Zebras also took the opportunity to reward the young fans by giving them free tickets for the Brisbane match on March 14.

Hill were in reaction to an outburst from a seething Socceroo youth coach Les Scheinflug.

Scheinflug has called for a victory for the England Under 16 team overturned after they played McMaster.

Australian-born McMaster scored the winner for England in a 2-1 victory over Cyprus, sparking the heated response from Scheinflug and the New South Wales Soccer Federation.

The Central Coast teenager joined Leeds United recently.

Scheinflug said he would be pursuing the issue in any way he could.

"They should lose the

points for this, he has not been cleared by the New South Wales Soccer Federation or by Soccer Australia," he said.

"I will be following this right through, what right have they to play him, we want to know just how he can play for England."

The New South Soccer Federation is also incensed at the news.

"We have not cleared him to play, he was given a provisional clearance by the English FA through FIFA, but we refused to clear him," NSWSF general manager Peter Thorne said.

"We are concerned

about the drain of our players going over there, there has been no compensation.

"We are not opposed to our players going over there, but we are vehemently opposed to them being pressured not to play for their country."

"We have put a huge investment into these players and we cannot continue to pump in these resources if they do not represent their country."

The club-country row has been festering since Harry Kewell put Leeds United ahead of the national team, saying he would be selective about which games he played for Australia.

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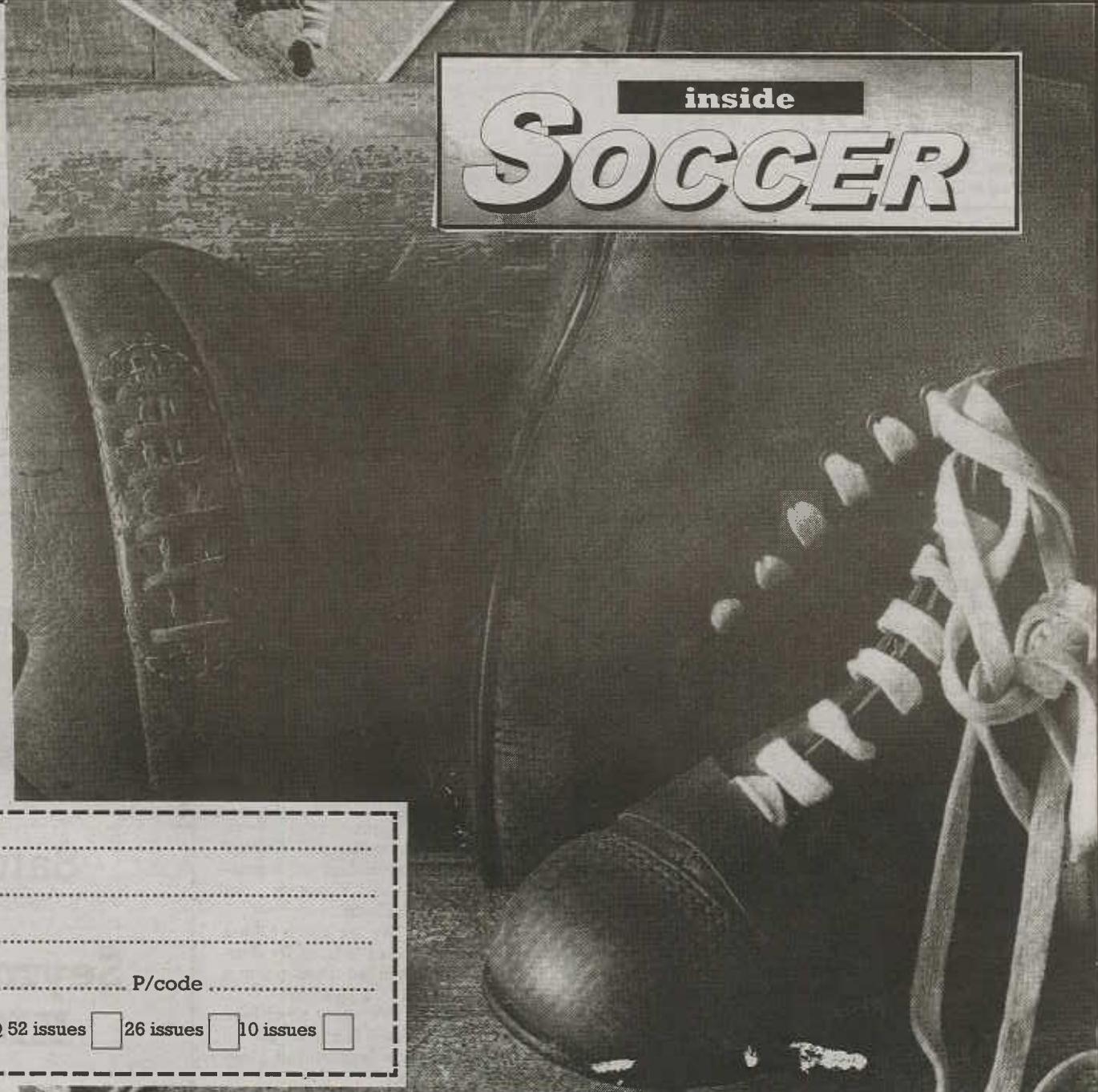
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Micro and Macro at Perth Glory

By Stuart Jones

WHEN Perth were looking for a coach this season they opted for a German to take charge and when it came to his assistant they came up with an ex-English pro who was then current youth coach of South Africa.

His name was Jean Michael D'Avray (or Mich) and his story could write a very long book.

D'Avray moved from South Africa to join English club Ipswich as an apprentice.

His career at Portman Road spanned 13 years and he played for the club 170 times with 41 substitute appearances and he scored 37 goals.

He was signed on full contract forms in May 1979 and also had a three match loan spell with Leicester in 1986.

D'Avray also played for the England under 21 team twice.

After winning in Europe and gaining a second league place with Ipswich in 1981 things were not quite as successful for the club, including a spell in the second division.

D'Avray finished his career with spells in Holland and even had a brief stay in Asia before returning to South Africa where he became the Under 23 national youth coach.

He joined Perth Glory at the beginning of this season.

"I had been to Australia a couple of years ago with the South African national under 23 side, I liked the country and I had friends in Perth," he says.

"I actually stopped on my way back to South Africa in Perth and watched a Glory game then and I was very impressed with the set-up that had been built."

"It was professional and had big crowds with an English-type atmosphere, and I thought this would be a new way of life and a new challenge."

"The biggest problems I have had to come to terms with was the fact that football is not the number one code in Australia."

"Contrary to what (some) people believe, football is the number one sport in South Africa, it is not your cricket or rugby."

"It is a passionate game and when the Kaiser Chiefs played two weeks ago there were 65,000 people for a club game."

"The professional level is fantastic in Perth,

Mich & Berndt: Perth's perfect couple

(although) skill-wise the Africans in general have more flare, and natural ability but the Australians make up for that in their hard work and dedication.

"It was disappointing to see our crowd for Brisbane recently, however people all over the world are fickle, they only want to see winners."

"To be fair, prior to that game we had a few results go against us, including poor games at Perth Oval."

"Hopefully they have been encouraged to come back now we have had a couple of good results. "We are under no illusion, our mandate at the beginning of the season was to finish in the Top Six."

"We had such a good start that expectations rose and as well as pointing to us making the Top Six they were proclaiming us champions. "The coaches tried to harness those expectations but others kept seeing our results and laughed at the warnings."

"Then we had a bad spell and the same people would question whether we would even make the Top Six. "We have had three results and people start to talk of championships again."

"Fortunately the chairman has not moved the goal posts at all and we are grateful for that. "Our aim for Perth Glory is the Top Six."

D'Avray joined Berndt Strang in the Glory coaching team and immediately blended well. In fact, that was one of the criteria that he was given at his job interview - that he get on well with the Head Coach.

"I only met Berndt seven months ago and we had dinner together and he is a very open and friendly man and we got on well," says D'Avray. "He allows me my input into the team which is very important to me."

"If I was working with a coach who wanted everything their way and will not listen to anyone else, then I would have been banging my head against a brick wall."

Berndt varies my input and we compliment each other. "I always liken it to the macro and the micro plan, his job is the macro whereas I get on with the micro details, attention to detail for the younger

choice for England because he is young, enthusiastic, and has a good personality, he will do very well."

So what does the future hold for Mich D'Avray? "I am young (he turned 37 two days before

Troy Halpin" one of the talented young players at Perth benefitting from the D'Avray micro touch

Glory's game against Sydney United) and I am ambitious but what I have learned in this game is you can not plan too far ahead."

"Right now I have a deal with Perth Glory. "I am happy to be in



Troy Halpin" one of the talented young players at Perth benefitting from the D'Avray micro touch

choice for England because he is young, enthusiastic, and has a good personality, he will do very well."

So what does the future hold for Mich D'Avray?

"I am young (he turned 37 two days before

Glory's game against Sydney United) and I am ambitious but what I have learned in this game is you can not plan too far ahead."

"Right now I have a deal with Perth Glory. "I am happy to be in

Australia and especially in Perth.

"I do believe soccer in this country is a sleeping giant."

"Soccer is the world game and sooner or later it is going to explode in this country and I would

love to be a part of it."

That is something everyone involved in the game in this country at what ever level, dreams of and hopes to see come to fruition in the not too distant future.

Frankie back on the playing bench

By Glenn Davis & John White

MARCONI coach Frank Farina could soon make a surprise playing comeback after being granted a release from his former club Brisbane Strikers.

Farina guided Brisbane to the national soccer league championship in his first season as coach in 1996-97 before parting company under bitter circumstances last year.

The 34-year-old cited a breach of contract with the Strikers for his reason to head to Marconi, sparking a war of words and the threat of legal action from Brisbane management.

Brisbane chairman Ian Brusasco eventually let Queensland's former star striker free to coach at Marconi but vowed he would never release him to play this season.

However, animosity between Farina and club management has settled down, culminating in the Strikers granting Farina a players' release mid last week.

"We've had a lot of problems at Marconi lately and gaining a clearance and possibly playing again is only an option at this stage," Farina said.

"I haven't ruled out playing this season but I haven't trained for a couple of months.

"My registration will at least bolster our squad.

"It will give me the option of perhaps starting on the bench and coming on at some stage."

Marconi has won only one of its last seven matches.

"I'm not one for making excuses but we've lost our whole backline for long periods," he said.

"Mark Babic and Dominic Longo have missed the last six games and others like Brendan Renaud have been out for 12 weeks."

Farina's illustrious playing career was cut short by a serious knee injury in his final season with the Strikers.

"I had an arthroscopy on my knee after we won the Grand Final but it was never right in my

final year with the Strikers," he said.

"But it seems to have settled down a lot after having six months off."

And club official Ross Musso hinted that the coach might well become a member of the Stallions squad — sooner rather than later.

"Of course, Frank will be on the bench," Musso joked, "he is the coach."

"But seriously, we have had a lot of injuries and his registration will give us extra back-up."

"It is up to him whether he plays or not because he was signed by this club as a coach, not a player."

"We have certainly been under the hammer in terms of injuries this season, so once the matter with Brisbane was resolved, the club sounded me out at making a comeback," added Farina.

"Of major consideration to me was the fact that we will probably be without Christian Care and Danny Invincible when the Young Socceroos depart for Nigeria next month."



Frank Farina: now available for selection following a resolution with Brisbane Strikers

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Zeljko Susa: escaping a long shadow

By David Arnold

ZELJKO Susa strides around Knights Stadium with all the confidence and skill of his famous AIS and Knights teammate Joe Simunic. Sometimes you wonder if it's a burden having a friend as famous and gifted as Simunic but Susa takes it, as he takes the ball, in his stride.

The similarities in the two young men's careers extend beyond the physical. Winning a Scholarship to the AIS saw both being groomed by that remarkable coach, Ron Smith.

"Ron was simply the best coach I've ever had, he teaches you so much and you learn every day from him," says Susa. With scholarships and fond memories of the AIS reaching an end, Susa turned his attention to starting a professional career and without an overseas contract in the offering, Susa was also looking to move from Canberra, where he had spent most of his life and played as a junior.

A move to Melbourne with the start-up Carlton seemed a logical choice. However, a recommendation by Simunic to Knights officials saw Zeljko Susa turn his back on Carlton to sign with the Sunshine outfit.

"I was getting messed around with Carlton, they were saying they'd sign me, and the difference between Carlton and the Knights towards me was amazing," says the player.

As a result, Susa is probably the only player to head the other way up the Ballarat Highway, compared to the well-worn route travelled by Lapsansky, Cervinski (A and D), Marth, Simunic and co.

Susa was in the frame for the 1997 WYC, but he ruptured the medial ligaments in his knee and missed most of the year. It's tempting to say he would have done a better job than Bill Damianos or Mark Robertson, but from early pace-setting days, Susa only knows too well the harsh reality of professional football.

Simunic, whom Susa calls Australia's best ever player, has only started resuming training after yet another setback for SV Hamburg.

"Joe's foot has never really got better - he's only back in training now and his contract is up soon, so there's a lot of pressure on him," says his friend.

Susa remains unimpressed with Simunic's decision to turn his back on Australia.

"I'm a good friend of Joe, but to turn your back on your family and friends is simply wrong," he says.

And although Susa is tall, strong and classy on the ball, just like his friend, he harbours no ambition to play sweeper: "I just love scoring goals at the moment, maybe when I'm older I'll move back, but my favourite position is left midfield."

Susa scores for fun in train-

ing, the acceleration and swerve reminiscent of Paul Okon (or even Joe Simunic, for that matter), but coach Joe Biskic has words of caution.

He says: "Joe is an intelligent player, gifted going forward, but his defensive duties need a lot of work. He is content with playing at one level, but needs to lift his game to go beyond that, and more importantly, to be more consistent at a higher level.

"He needs to work at dragging his man out of position, to play quicker and much more physically. His temperament is good, but simply, more is needed.

With Tom Podeljak continuing his search for the Eurodollar, the Knights will increasingly turn more to the likes of Susa and Natevski, two young guns who have done well, and can go much further. Susa wants to play overseas, but is not interested in a move to his father's homeland, the trials of Mark Viduka and Josip Skoko doubtlessly affecting his decision.

"Word is the quality of the league is no better than here, and match-fixing is going on all the time," says the Knights starlet. "I'm not interested in doing a Viduka or Skoko and using Croatia as a stepping stone, but to play in Europe is everyone's dream and my ambition."

Maybe in Europe Zeljko Susa will finally escape Josip Simunic's long shadow.

Postecoglou warns rivals

By Paul Gough

SOUTH Melbourne's bid to win successive national soccer league championships is set to be boosted by the imminent return of star midfielders Goran Lozanovski and David Clarkson.

The reigning champion opened up a commanding lead at the top of the table following a 2-0 win over Marconi two weeks ago and its dominance, despite an injury crisis, has encouraged coach Angie Postecoglou (pictured right).

In a warning to rival championship contenders, Postecoglou said he expected to have a full squad available within weeks.

"Our depth has been there since the start of the season and I've been saying week in, week out that the boys have risen to every challenge so far," he said.

"We haven't missed a beat regardless of the problems we've had and once we get everybody back - and that gives me a few selection problems - I think that will lift

our performances even further."

Lozanovski has made only sporadic appearances in recent weeks due to first suspension and then injury but resumed on the weekend against Sydney Olympic.

While Lozanovski provides most of the flair in the South midfield it is Clarkson who provides the engine room.

Postecoglou said Clarkson was ahead of schedule in his comeback from a serious ankle injury sustained against the South Korean Olympic side in a friendly in January.

"Clarky is flying at the moment," Postecoglou said.

"Hopefully he will be back in two to three weeks."

South's only fresh injury concern is defender Con Blatsis, who reinjured his hamstring in his comeback appearance against Marconi.

Postecoglou said he expected Blatsis to only miss the one week.

While anxious to get all his star players back, Postecoglou has been



delighted with the performance of his lesser known squad members in recent weeks saying the club's depth was the

envy of all other sides in the league.

"I've got full confidence in every one in the squad and we've never

had a problem since I came here with any players being upset about not being in the side," he said.

"They've all been prepared to work hard and take their opportunities when they come along."

Bosnich: time to get back on that bike

By Stuart Bell

NICK Tana, owner of Perth Glory, has a simple message for Australian soccer.

The outspoken businessman openly states that he believes the future for Australia's established mono-ethnic clubs is bleak.

In fact he told the *Adelaide Advertiser* that it is was on "death row."

It is an opinion which will not endear him to a great deal of people within the Aussie game but that is unlikely to bother Tana one little bit.

Especially with the runaway success of Perth Glory in its short three-season stint in the NSL.

"Only a genuine and complete transformation can save them (the traditional clubs)," says Tana.

Speaking of the two Adelaide clubs, City and Sharks, Tana has put them in the category which he says is on "death row".

"They've done everything contrary to what is needed to transform the game," he told the *Adelaide Advertiser*.

"They can't change and really they don't want to.

I know they won't do it."

And he promised to be the first to start a new franchise in Adelaide - if someone doesn't beat him to it first.

"If there isn't (a new team in Adelaide within three to five years) then I will start one," he said.

Tana has single handedly changed the face of the Australian game, slapping a few sensitivities in the process.

But even that is unlikely to cause him concern for more than a flickering moment.

Last year he was beaten for the vacant NSL Chairman's job by Tony Labbozzetta but even that has not dampened his self-belief in the game's direction.

And, based on his success, few could argue.

Of his Perth Glory club he says: "We have a strong base of fans who nominate the AFL as their first sport."

"When you get a half a dozen West Coast Eagles footballers in the crowd, you know you're making an impact."

Rumour in Adelaide is still strong that the Sharks and City will defy Tana's vision and merge,

with Rupert Murdoch's News Limited said to be in the running for a new franchise in the South Australian capital.

But Murdoch is said to be unimpressed with the nationalist factions which have traditionally existed in soccer for over fifty years and is said to favour a one-town team, with no baggage, playing out of Hindmarsh Stadium.

And while Tana's idea of promoting a soccer game isn't everyone's cup of tea (he values noise and colour almost more than football) his success can't be argued against.

Once regarded as the shining example of Australian soccer's bright future Adelaide has, in recent years, slipped back considerably.

Neither City nor the Sharks has maintained that momentum of the early '90s and attendances at both club's home matches has slipped back to paltry figures.

Even derbies fall four or five thousand short of the crowd figures of just a few seasons ago and clearly the alarm bells are ringing.

Thommo sweeps clean

EDDIE Thomson's visiting Sanfrecce Hiroshima team completed a clean sweep of its Australian pre-season games with a 10-0 win over Adelaide City at Hindmarsh last week.

Tatsuhiko Kubo scored the 61st minute goal which sealed the game and they looked very comfortable on the ball for the entire game.

The game was a landmark occasion as it was the first time that Hiroshima's Aurelio Vidmar has played against his old club.

Vidmar almost got the first goal of the match with a first half header which smashed against the post.

Sanfrecce Hiroshima had earlier beating Adelaide Sharks and South Australia - both 2-1.

South holds Grand Auction

SOUTH Melbourne has scheduled a grand auction for Friday, 16th April at the Albert by the Lake Function Centre.

The club announces that it is actively seeking donation items and would be delighted to hear from anyone who may make a contribution.

"Already we have some fantastic items however we are still far from finalising our selection," said a club official.

Zebra Sell Out

ADELAIDE City held a sell-out business lunch last Friday at the City Club in Carrington Street.

It was part of an ongoing series held by the zebras and 400 seats had been sold at the function with Olympic Gold Medallist Mike Turner as principal speaker.

South Sponsor's Lunch

SOUTH Melbourne will stage a sponsor's luncheon on Friday, 12th March.

The luncheon will be held at the Palladium, Crown Casino.

Bookings are limited to 100 people and the club advises that intending patrons book early.

Culina flies out for Brondby

SYDNEY Olympic star Jason Culina jetted out of Australia yesterday (Monday) after playing his last game for the Ericsson Cup club.

Danish club Brondby is set to pay cash-strapped Olympic \$1.3 million, which will be a record for an Australian-based teenager.

Culina is expected to sign a three-year contract with the Danish club this week.

Italian club Parma was also involved in the bidding for the Olyroo star.

It is believed that the Serie A deal was being handled by IMG's Bernie Mandic.



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Knights get Viduka cash lifeline

By Paul Millar

NSL Melbourne Knights have been thrown a financial lifeline after being guaranteed payment for their former star Mark Viduka.

Vice president Ivan Skunca said he expected \$A1,288,650 to be paid to the Knights.

The payment was due yesterday (Monday).

The Knights are due a 20 percent share of Viduka's transfer from Croatia Zagreb to Scottish champion Glasgow Celtic.

The Knights have been struggling financially this year, and Skunca said the money would help the club restructure and become debt free.

"Celtic paid the money to our solicitor in a trust



account," said Skunca.

Complications with Viduka's transfer arose when he fled to Melbourne only days after arriving in Glasgow in

December citing emotional stress.

The game's governing body FIFA had asked Viduka's former club Croatia Zagreb for more details surrounding its claim to the full Stg3 million transfer fee, having examined a deposition from his new club Celtic.

Celtic moved to split the fee three ways after apparent concerns over the Stg1.5 million

and Stg600,000 shares Zagreb was due to forward to Viduka and Melbourne Knights.

Viduka was absent from the club for seven weeks but has now played two games in its under-21 side.

And in his second match against Dundee last week the Socceroo striker scored his second goal in as many games.

Inside Soccer's TRIVIA MOMENTS Sponsored by SOCCERLINE

WHICH club won the first-ever Gardiner Cup?

ANSWER: see Ram Scoreboard, p30.

Inside Soccer cadet Luke Bear talks to Marconi's Brendan Renaud

How many years have you been at Marconi and what were your previous clubs?

This is my fourth.

Prior to Marconi I was at Parramatta Eagles.

I had been there since Under 15s so that was about eight years.

Brendan, what would be the highlight of your career so far?

Probably when the True Blues played the Travellers and I set up the goal which Frank Farina scored to make it 1-1.

Who has had the biggest influence on your career so far?

Oh boy. I would have to say my dad is my number one.

I suppose Alan Maher is another - he was my coach in the Under 10 Granville rep side, and Rale Rasic gave me my chance at first grade, and my wife Nadia, who's supported me all the way - and Mitre, my sponsor, who have also supported me all the way.

What would be the best advice you've ever received?

To believe in yourself and never give up.

The time it takes for you to give up you could have got what you wanted anyway.



Do you think that the Stallions can come back from the dead and make the Top Six?

Yes. Due to injuries our form has been a little off.

I think we started the season off well.

Now we have Dominic Longo coming back from injury also.

What are your future plans with the Stallions?

Making the Top Six and then making a Grand Final.

I suppose it was disappointing to lose the

Grand Final to Melbourne Knights a few years ago?

Yeh. I think the year before Marconi finished 10th so it definitely would have been great to win.

You've been out for about 12 weeks, how long do you think it will take to get to your best form?

It will take a while but if I keep my head down I should be alright.

At the moment it is just a case of not being match fit but with the amount of

games left before the play-offs I should be right by then.

How do you find Frank Farina as a coach? Well personally I find him brilliant.

He is a new generation of coach.

He lets you express yourself but is very strong on discipline.

He expects 100% whether you're playing 90 or 120 minutes.

It is also great to rub shoulders with such a famous soccer player - it's unbelievable.

SOCER: A LEGAL EAGLE'S PERSPECTIVE

Minors and Contracts; Reason for Caution

By Greg Keenan

(Solicitor, McCabes Lawyers, Sydney; Managing Director, Athlete Management International, Sydney)

IN THIS week's article I will be looking at some of the issues that arise when a minor is offered a contract to play soccer with a club or other organisation.

When I refer to a minor, I mean a person who is under the age of eighteen years old.

This is a very topical subject in light of the Jamie McMaster affair.

McMaster, from New South Wales Central Coast, last week scored the winning goal for England's under-17 team in a European qualifying match played against Cyprus.

Since McMaster played for the England Under-17 team it has been reported in the press that the New South Wales Soccer Federation would consider contracting boys that participate in the Institute programme.

It appears that the intention of this type of arrangement would be to prevent a repeat of the Jamie McMaster situation.

This has clearly led to problems between Leeds United, the Premier League club who have contracted McMaster, and Australian soccer authorities who would like him to play for Australia.

Let us assume for a moment that the New South Wales Soccer Federation, along with the Victorian, South Australian, Queensland and AIS programmes decided to attempt to enter into arrangements with the programme participants.

These arrangements would be mostly with boys under the age of eighteen years and would seek to contractually tie them to their respective State body, for example the New South Wales Soccer Federation.

A couple of legal issues which may arise in introducing such a system are:

- * some of the differences between an agreement and a contract; and
- * in what circumstances can a contract be enforced against a minor.

It is relevant to note that for an agreement to be considered a contract, a number of ingredients must be present.

Without attempting to define a contract, one such ingredient is the intention of the parties that the agreement have legal consequences.

If the parties intended that they would be able to go to court and have the agreement enforced, this would add weight to the argument that an agreement was a contract.

On the other hand, it would be more difficult to prove to a court that an agreement was intended to be a contract if it was not intended that a player would be sued for breach of contract for not attending training.

This point is relevant when looking at the assumption that the State Soccer Federations wish to bind their elite squad members by having them sign contracts.

It would be difficult to imagine that a fourteen-year-old boy would be sued by a State Soccer Federation for repeatedly failing to attend elite squad training.

Assuming that an agreement with a minor is a contract, it is necessary to determine whether the contract can be enforced against the minor.

A State Soccer Federation would need

to look at this issue before implementing a system of contracts for talented young players.

The courts have said that some contracts can be enforced against minors.

Generally, a contract of employment, apprenticeship or training will bind the minor if the contract is for the minor's benefit.

It would be necessary to prove that the contract is for the minor's benefit.

This is not a simple exercise and each case would vary according to its particular facts.

I have had the experience where a client of mine in another football code had signed a contract to play for a particular club for a period of two years.

That contract was entered into prior to my representing him.

The client was a minor at all relevant times.

In return for playing for the club, the club had agreed to pay the player a small amount of money.

Twelve months into the term of the contract, my client began to exceed all expectations with his playing performances.

I approached the club on reasonable grounds to negotiate an upgrade and extension of my client's contract.

The club refused my request.

As a result, the contract with the club was terminated under the provisions of a New South Wales piece of legislation dealing with contracts entered into by minors.

The basis of the termination was that the contract, in our view, was not for the benefit of the minor.

We put forward evidence to support this claim.

The club reluctantly accepted our argument, without the matter going to court.

My client then entered into a relatively lucrative contract with another club.

This example goes to show that the law does treat minors a little differently to adults.

However, you should not think that just because a minor enters into a contract they automatically have a right to get out of it.

Accordingly, it is very important that the parents of young boys who are required to sign contracts with clubs and/or State organisations make sure their sons are aware of their rights and obligations under such contracts.

With the enormous amounts of money that can be earned through playing professional soccer, it is certainly worth spending a small amount at the outset of a boy's career to make sure that contracts are properly negotiated, documented and understood.

There are a number of legal issues that would need to be considered apart from the ones I have raised in this article.

No doubt the respective State Soccer Federations will address these issues should they seek to avoid a repeat of the Jamie McMaster situation and implement a system of contracts for their elite juniors.

This article is prepared exclusively for the general information of the readership of Inside Soccer. While it directs attention to and comments on aspects of law, it is not intended to provide legal advice in the area. Professional advice should be sought from your lawyer before acting on any of the information conveyed in this article.

Bugsy's View

with Marconi skipper Brad Maloney

What a difference a week makes!

After our 2-0 defeat a fortnight ago by South Melbourne, some sections of the press were crying that our season was finished, and that we had no chance of making the play offs.

After our 5-1 win against Gippsland last Saturday, I then read that our championship hopes have been 'rekindled'!

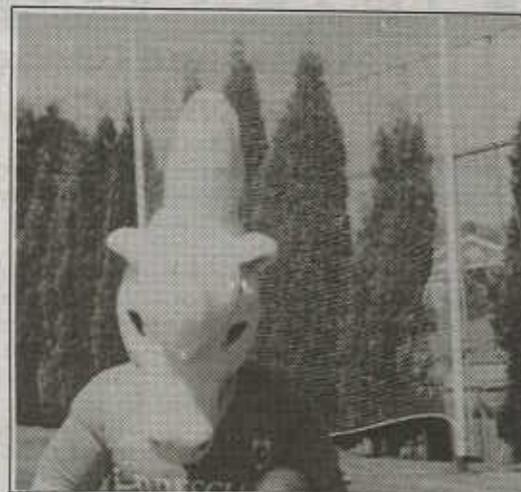
As I said in last week's column, the important factor in our favour is the number of games we play at home in the run up to the semi finals.

Win the five remaining home fixtures and we finish in the top six, lose more than one of them, and we probably won't.

We've known exactly what we have to do for some time, so to read that our season was over after the South Melbourne game, gave us a bit of a chuckle.

We went into the Gippsland game with the attitude that we had to win, and as it turned out in the end, we won in style.

That 5-1 result will certainly give our confidence a boost, and from a personal point of view it was great to grab a hat-



trick.

It was the first time I have managed to get my name on the score sheet since we played Perth way back in mid December, and hopefully it won't be the last time this season.

I blotted my copy book a little by failing to score with a late penalty, but if ever I was going to miss a penalty, like most players, I'd rather do it when we were 5-1 up.

Marconi have certainly been in the news recently when it comes to big name signings.

Firstly we sign Robbie Hooker, and then probably the biggest surprise of the season was announced when our coach,

Frank Farina, rejoined the playing ranks.

Frank, who needs no introduction as a player, became available to play after some contractual problems with his former club, Brisbane Strikers, were resolved.

Obviously it may take a couple of weeks or so for Frank to gain that critical match fitness, but just knowing he is available, is a boost for the club.

It is well documented how our season has been affected by injuries, but with our crooks gradually coming back, and the addition of experienced internationalists in the shape of Robbie Hooker, and Frank Farina, our squad is looking one of

the strongest in the league.

Against Gippsland our substitute bench comprised of internationals Robbie Hooker and Kris Trajanovski and the talented Vlado Zoric.

I'm sure most Ericsson Cup sides would love to be able to boast the depth that we now have.

This week we continue our march towards the semi finals with a game against Adelaide Sharks in Adelaide.

Although the Sharks are out of contention for a place in the Top Six, nobody who will be boarding the flight for Adelaide will be underestimating them.

They made the trip to Newcastle last week and came away with a point, and we know that Newcastle is not a particularly easy place to pick up points.

Having said that, I think our result against Gippsland proved to a lot of people that we are on the way back, and we'll approach the game with confidence.

A victory for us in this game would certainly have a few teams in the Top Six worriedly looking over their shoulders.

The half time break: Hodgson

By Doug Conway

WHAT should soccer coaches tell their players during the precious, crowded minutes of half-time?

One thing they shouldn't waste their time on is giving a commentary on what has already happened, according to Roy Hodgson, the former Blackburn Rovers, Inter Milan and Swiss national coach who is tipped to be in the running for the vacant Socceroos job.

"I don't see any value whatsoever in saying things like, 'You were unlucky there' or 'You might have had a goal then,'" Hodgson said in Sydney last week.

"Astute coaches will be analysing the game and highlighting two or three things that could be critical to the outcome."

"The good ones will provide advice that counts."

"The bad ones will just give the sort of commentary that has already been on TV."

Hodgson, speaking at the fourth World Science and Football Congress in Sydney, was giving an insight into his ideal 15-minute half-time break.

The first five minutes, he said,

would allow the physiotherapists to set about their work but it was important that the players remained quiet.

"If you're not careful you can have arguments, with emotionally charged elite players moaning, criticising, bellyaching and making excuses," he said.

The next five minutes should be ample for the coach to outline his key points, leaving the final five minutes for players to prepare mentally and "get their minds right" for the second half.

Hodgson was mulling over statistics from last year's World Cup finals which reinforced what coaches have known for years - that most goals are scored at either side of half-time, and in the last 15 minutes.

He put down the bulk of late goals to a combination of fatigue and risk-taking.

But he said mental factors could be behind the large number of goals scored near the interval - with players either looking forward to a rub-down at half-time or "switching off" during the break.

He conceded, however: "Maybe coaches are not doing enough to reactivate their minds."

INSIDE SOCCER

Australia's weekly

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OUT EVERY TUESDAY

- coast to coast

Australia down in two game South Korea series

THE young Socceroos today went down 3-2 to South Korea in the first of two practice matches in preparation for the World Under-20 Soccer Championship in Nigeria at Parklea on Tuesday night.

Korea opened the scoring in the 5th minute, but Australia drew level shortly after through a

rocketing volley into the top right corner by Ivan Ergic of the Australian Institute of Sport.

The Koreans, though, controlled the first half action with speed and agility and went into the break with a 3-1 lead.

Sydney United striker Joel Griffiths drew a second goal back after constant second-half pressure



Skipper: Brett Emerton

by Australia.

In the second challenge match, played at the same venue last Thursday night, Australia's under-20 soccer team went down 5-1 at Parklea.

The home side started strongly but conceded two goals in a matter of

four minutes to find themselves down 2-0 at halftime.

Brett Emerton was Australia's sole scorer, taking on two defenders and pounding on the parry from the goalkeeper to slot the ball home.

But an unfortunate own

goal from Mark Byrnes sealed the 5-1 loss.

Coach Les Scheinflug said his team needed more fitness.

"Today proved that the Koreans are very well prepared, are a good side, a good team, much fitter and with more cohesion than our team," said Scheinflug.

"I will be more than happy when we have the same opportunity to reach that level of fitness

over the next few weeks and I am still confident that the team will do quite well in Nigeria.

"The Koreans have been here practising for a month, as opposed to our four days in camp, and it shows as they look the goods."

"We now have to get that same level of mental fitness, physical fitness and team cohesion."

The camp broke up from its headquarters at

the NSW Soccer Federation last Friday when the players headed home to take up their Ericsson Cup and National Youth League commitments.

The final squad of 18 to travel to Nigeria will be announced midweek.

The final squad of 18 to travel to Nigeria for the Under-20 World Cup will be announced mid-next week.

Australia's Under-20 squad spent last week at the headquarters of the NSW Soccer Federation at Parklea, as preparations continued for the upcoming World Championship in Nigeria.

25 locally-based players took up residence at Valentine Park, in Sydney's West, fighting for positions in the final 18-man squad which will be named this week.

Joining the camp was goalkeeper Tynan Scope, who took time out from his duties at Coventry City in the UK to make a claim for a berth in the final squad.

Coach Les Scheinflug called in a selection of new players into the train on-squad, with competition for positions extremely high.

"I called in boys who have been performing well in the National competitions, the likes of Joel Griffiths from Sydney United, Paul Reid from Wollongong, Daniel Watkins and Matt Langdon from Northern Spirit, Nick Sabljak from Adelaide City and Ivan Ergic from the AIS, who are all new to the National arena," said Scheinflug.

Scheinflug had some injury worries, the major one concerning Nick Rizzo, who damaged the medial ligament in his right knee, following a tackle in a reserves match for Crystal Palace.

Rizzo is expected to be out of football for up to 3 months, and will not participate at the World Championship.

"Losing Nick, who is such a key player, is a huge blow not only to him personally, but to this side," added Scheinflug.

"Last time we lost Harry Kewell with a hairline fracture, this time we lose Nick, virtually on the eve of the Championships."

The career, times & thoughts of JASON POLAK

PART TWO

By Alan Clark

SO YOU went to Brisbane, in what from your point of view were unsatisfactory circumstances, but it was also very controversial circumstances as far as the transfer fee was concerned?

"That's right. I didn't really want to leave South Melbourne, Frank not wanting to keep me that was the reason I was going, so South Melbourne - as they are entitled to - asked for a transfer fee from Brisbane.

"Because the two parties didn't agree it went to a Tribunal."

Jason, the Tribunal set a fee that I think even I could afford! (provoking a laugh from Jason).

"Yeah.

"I guess the Tribunal based their decision on the circumstances.

"I don't know the full details, but maybe they thought I was hard done by.

"That I was being let go, and the circumstances around it, that I should go for that amount.

"As far as that goes, I'm not sure what I can say and what I can't.

You went for one thousand dollars? "A thousand dollars, that's right, yes."

An international player, under 30 years old, with both Grand Final experience, and an overseas professional resume going for just a grand! Brisbane must have backed themselves, because the chances are there'd be any number of Sydney clubs which would have picked you up without the slightest shadow of doubt had they backed themselves also that the Tribunal was going to come up with a \$1,000 fee.

"I think I was pretty set at that stage that I was going to go to Brisbane.

"Bruce Stowell was now the coach there which I was happy about, and the other circumstance surrounding that was that I couldn't actually leave Melbourne because of my work here and my wife's job.

"It was extraordinary that I was playing for Brisbane while I was actually living in Melbourne.

"(For Strikers' home games) I'd fly up for training on a Thursday night, train Friday night, play Saturday night and come back Sunday.

"For away games, I'd meet the team wherever they played.

"Brisbane were very understanding about that, and they accepted those terms, and more importantly the players were happy with those terms as well.

"You don't want the players saying 'He's getting favourable treatment' and not being happy with it - that's the last thing you want to do."

JASON Polak has had a long and successful football career in Australia at National League level amassing over 200 games with four clubs.

He has also been a success as an Aussie overseas playing in the Greek, Belgian, and Dutch leagues.

In only one of Jason's National League seasons has the team he's been with failed to play in the Finals, and then by only one point.

Next week Jason will play his 100th game for current Champions, and Ericsson Cup leaders, South Melbourne.

The former Socceroo talks exclusively about his career - its ups and down, its triumphs and disasters - with *Inside Soccer's* Alan Clark.

That season, Brisbane made the Finals, and South Melbourne didn't. Surely Jason must have taken a bit of pleasure in that outcome.....

"I wasn't pleased that South Melbourne didn't make the Finals because I had a lot of friends there.

"But I was pleased the way Brisbane went because we had a very good year.

"It was great playing with Frank Farina - he had comeback (to Australia) and was playing his first season back.

"It was a great experience playing with him - he was inspirational.

"It was a very enjoyable year from my point of view too.

"My family is up in Brisbane so I got to see them every second week, I was playing with a lot of players I knew from previous years and with whom I got on very well, and we did very well.

"Coming down to the last game had the results gone our way we could have won the league."

Brisbane finished three points behind Marconi, and just two behind Melbourne Knights and Sydney Olympic. The standings meant that Brisbane faced Sydney United in the Finals.

"Sydney United were always going to be a difficult contest and we ended up losing to them.

"The turning point in that game (the second leg after Brisbane trailed 0-2 following the first) was when Frank Farina got sent off and that made it quite difficult for me.

"Off with Frank went our chances of winning the game.

"Farina had just scored to make the score 1-2 on aggregate.

"We had a chance of levelling the thing, and then Frank got sent off and they scored two late goals."

The very next season - 1996/97, Jason was back as a South Melbourne player.

"I never wanted to leave South Melbourne, not that I didn't enjoy my time in Brisbane, it was a very enjoyable year, but I had to make some very hard decisions.

"The fact that I had to travel to Brisbane was a difficult thing as well - I had to fly up for games and I

was still living in Melbourne so it's not the sort of thing you can do on a long-term basis.

"So I came back to South and I've been here ever since!"

What was the transfer fee?" I asked mischievously.

I'm not too sure, I think it might have been another big \$1,000 transfer!"

Ange Postecoglou was now in charge, what was the style or climate change you noticed on your return?

"Ange had been assistant coach for a while.

"It's always different when there's a new coach.

"Ange from the very start concentrated on a certain style of play.

"We're still working on that.

"And it's proved to be a very successful style.

"Each year the team's got better at playing that particular way.

"I think it's one of the keys for the success of the club."

South improved to finish third in the league and met Jason's personal Finals bogey-team in the Preliminary Final and lost 0-1.

"Sydney United again!

"Yeah, it was always disappointing when you get knocked out in the Finals and when you're that close to the Grand Final

"I think we played the better football but we lost the game."

"At that stage in the Finals whenever you lose anyway you don't forget it easily, and I think the fact that we lost at that stage in the Finals motivated the team to win the following year."

The winner that year was your previous team?

"Yes it was," he laughed.

"Brisbane continued on their good form of the previous year, and ended up knocking over the competition favourites in the Final.

"The crowd was fantastic up there (in Brisbane) and it was a great thing for Queensland, and soccer in Brisbane in general."

You would have been a Brisbane supporter?



Once we were out of the competition, I was very happy to see Brisbane win, especially having played with the boys the year before that.

Jason was still with South Mel-

bourne the following season, but if you looked for his name on a team-sheet, you'd never find it. 1996/97 was a bit of a dud year for you?

"I had a good pre-season, and I was feeling pretty good - preparing for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

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AUSTRALIA'S H THE 1974 W soccer



BACK ROW (left to right): Rale Rasic (coach), Jim Milisavljevic, Dave Harding, John Watkiss, Peter Ollerton, Jim Fraser (inset: Alan Maher who replaced Fraser for the final party), John Warren, Max Tolson, Branko Buljevic, Jack Reilly.

ALL OF FAME WORLD CUP EROOS



CENTRE ROW: Jim Mackay, Ray Richards, Adrian Alston, Peter Wilson, Jimmy Rooney, Col Curran, Manfred Schaefer
FRONT ROW: Doug Utjesenovic, Gary Manuel, Ivo Rudic, Attila Abonyi, Harry Williams, Ernie Campbell

the season.

"We had a Charity Cup game against Carlton.

"I think I lasted about ten minutes of the game, and I ended up going off the pitch.

"I later found out I'd done my anterior cruciate ligament and I was going to be out for the season.

"At the time (of going off) I wasn't worried about my knee, because I'd put my shoulder out, and I thought it was my shoulder that was going to be the problem.

"The next day when I came to see the physio and my knee was swollen up a bit."

After Jason went for a scan he was given the news:

"I was told I was virtually going to be out for the season."

What went through your mind? By this stage now you're 28 ...

"It's a terrible feeling.

"Nothing like that had really happened to me before.

"I'd been pretty lucky throughout my career, and you think it's never going to happen to you.

"I remember I was shattered at the time.

"It was very frustrating and it was hard to go to the ground to watch the games.

"I remember match-days were always the worst during the regular season.

"But after a while you realise dwelling on it is not doing you any good, so you focus on each stage of rehabilitation - not looking too much to the end, just each step along the way."

Setting makeable goals?

"Yes, makeable goals, and trying to keep yourself busy doing that."

And how do you manage to keep yourself aerobically fit during treatment? You can't run, it's not until a

while that you can cycle.....

"You start in the pool - doing exercises in the pool.

"Once you're built up from that you get on the bicycle and you can't really get aerobically fit from doing that.

"It's not until you start running that you get back your fitness.

"That's the best stage of your rehabilitation - when you can start jogging around.

"I'd go for a run around the (Albert Park) lake, and feel like I was getting closer (to a come-back)."

How long was it between coming off injured in that game before you were kicking a ball around again?

"I can't remember exactly but it was not quite six months - maybe kicking a ball less than six months, but I got back into training in the weeks leading up to the Finals.

"I was back with the team doing the easy stuff to begin with, dropping out before the regular session (had ended).

"Towards the Semi-Finals Series I was joining in, but although I was joining in I wasn't right for a competitive game - avoiding tackles and that sort of thing."

So there you were, on the sidelines, watching as South Melbourne topped the league, and got through to the Grand Final?

"Yes, that's right, but I always said the hardest part for me was the regular season - week in, week out - watching the games but not playing.

"The thing about the Finals is that even though you're not playing, you get to enjoy it as a supporter, and get caught up in the atmosphere.

"It was fantastic!"

Your return for that was part-way through this season?

"Yup. I actually got back from the start of this season.

"I did all the pre-season with the team - played a few practise matches."

Your re-introduction to the national league was when you came on as a substitute for a South home game against Newcastle. Did you feel the recognition that supporters were giving you?

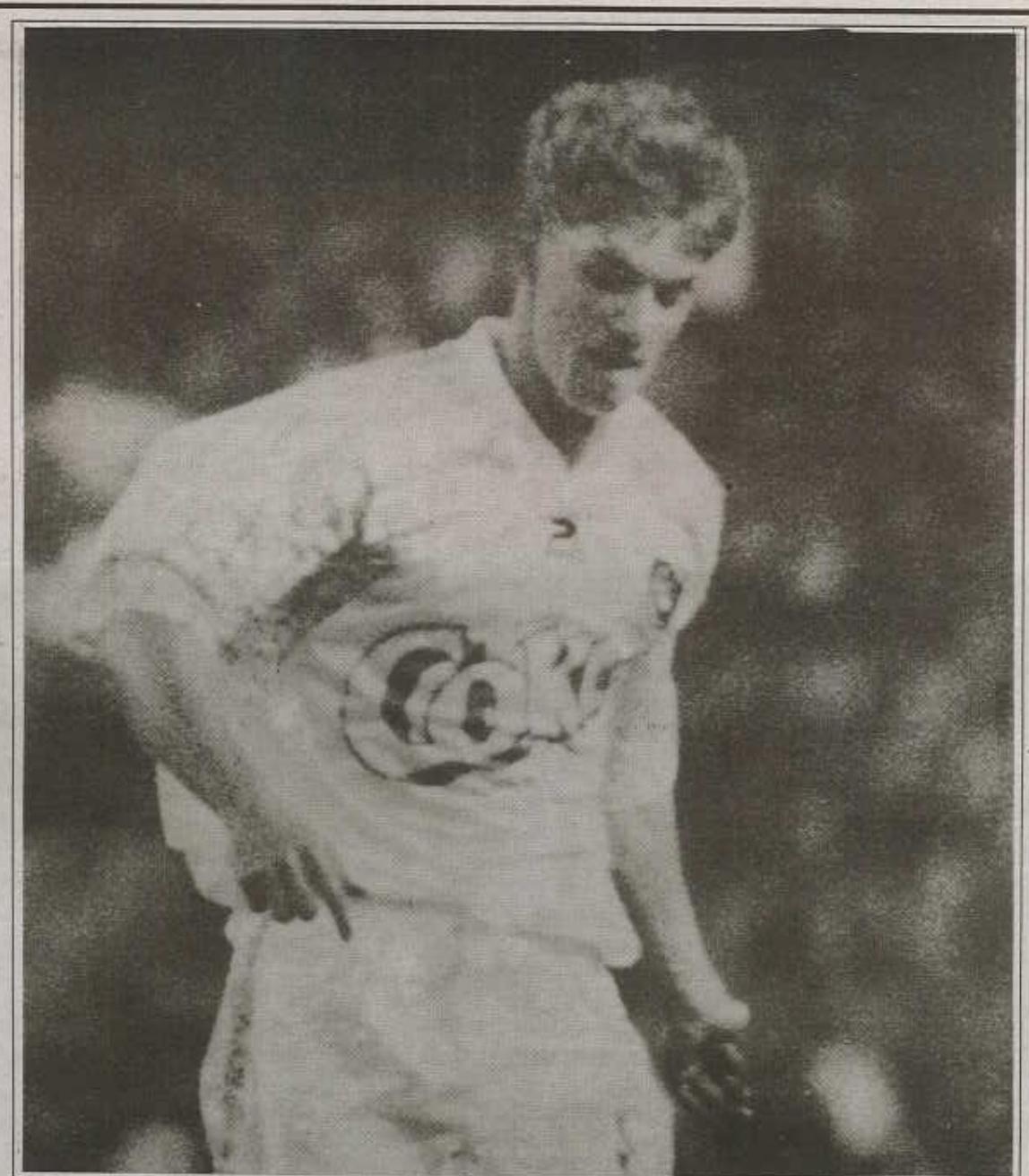
"That was a tremendous feeling.

"That I'd been out so long and the supporters gave me good reception (on my return).

"That was a real buzz that day.

"I probably didn't expect to be back into the team as quickly as I was.

"I thought it might take a bit



longer.

"We had a team that had won the league the year before and the Grand Final, and I hadn't played a game for about twelve months."

The departure of a number of that team - Bill Damianos, Tansel Baser, Con Boutsianis, injuries to Con Blattis and recently David Clarkson had sped your return and helped you

consolidate your position?

"I think it did.

"We still had a very strong side but I think my return was sped up by that."

How confident are you feeling about your fitness and your knee?

"My knee feels normal, I don't notice my knee.

"That's a good sign.

"In fact, I think it's a bit stronger than the other leg."

South Melbourne has not suffered post-Grand Final blues this season, holding top spot coming into the final straight. How do you fancy South's chances?

"As far as points go, I think we're slightly better off than where we were last year at this stage.

"We've done very well so far, especially with the adversity we've faced with players out and some players going.

"We've got some hard games to go though, I think we play all the top eight teams around us still.

"But I think that's a good thing, coming up to Finals, we want to be playing the top sides because Finals games aren't easy.

"If you're playing an increased (level of opposition) towards the Finals it's only going to help."

I was a bit careful about how I broached this next matter, but there was nothing for it but just to lob it in: Now you are the oldest player at South Melbourne at the moment?

"Yes", and he laughed a little uncomfortably.

"Maybe in terms of age, but you never feel so old.

"I feel much the way I have for a

number of years.

"My contract is up this year so a lot depends upon what happens when I sit down with the club at the end of the year."

Do you want to play on?

"Yeah, I want to play on.

"Especially as I've missed that year, I've been robbed of that year, so I want to make the most of the time that I have got available to me as far as playing."

And what about way down the track when you do decide to pull the pin as a player?

"It's definitely not coaching at the highest level of the game at this stage - they're under a lot of pressure and upon finishing a playing career, the last thing I want is to be under that sort of pressure.

"I'd be more inclined to be coaching younger players - watching them run around enjoying themselves.

"Administration would also be something that would interest me."

And if the Gods are willing, Jason Polak would play his 100th game for South Melbourne on the weekend against his first national league team - Sydney Olympic, with this article prepared before the Round 22 matches were played.

SOURCES:
Game stats from Andrew Howe and match details from Thomas Esamie and the crew at OzSoccer.

THE CONCLUSION

Your WRITE

Continued from page 8
could not find a publication that I could read about it until now.

I like Inside Soccer, it's great.

You can open it and read one page to another, it's straight forward and heads to the heart of the matter.

Over the years I have watched football the game has been saturated by players over-acting their injuries when they're tackled and just bad sportsmanship.

I was pleased to hear about the Arsenal manager's offer to replay the game between themselves and Sheffield United after they had won the 5th round FA Cup tie 2-1.

I was unaware of this generous rule in English football where the ball is kicked out of play so an injured player can receive treatment.

And then the team that wins the throw-in kicks the ball back to the opposing team.

During this game Arsenal's new recruit Nwanku Kanu intercepted the ball, crossed it to one of his team-mates who tapped it in for a goal.

What he did was well within the rules of the game.

Managers like Arsene Wenger are true sportsmen and men like him should be congratulated, as should the English FA

for accepting his sporting gesture.

I hope we can learn from this act.

In the end the winner is sport.

Mario Pamboris
Paddington NSW

(I must be one of the minority who don't watch much English football – because of a lack of available time.)

But like you I abhor bad sportsmanship.

In particular I vehemently detest the shirt-tug.

Luckily it wasn't common when I played competitively (or as my daughters tell me in the 'days when dinosaurs roamed the earth') otherwise my record of never having received a yellow card would have been spoiled by a back-hander or two.

Wenger's gesture was superb and hopefully it will act as a spur for others to behave similarly.

After all players can't be cheats, can they? – Ed.

Team from Alice
Response to Dariusz Roman of Prahran.

(Your intentions were undoubtedly of the highest motives, I don't doubt that for one moment.

But this paper does not promote racism, even unintentional racism.

To have a team in the

NSL which comprises only one ethnic section is racism, pure and simple.

I don't want to get involved in discussion about the rights and wrongs of the mono-ethnic backing of the existing clubs; that is a fact of life.

Should any of those clubs debar other nationalities from their ranks or matches then they would be guilty of racism.

Gladly they do not.

So, Dariusz, I believe your suggestion for that particular one nationalistic group to be admitted to the NSL, while having all the motives of promoting what is surely an oppressed minority, would be as sinful as the treatment handed to them by the current Australian government. – Ed.

Dingy Leeds

I KNOW it has probably been kicked from pillar to post by everyone and his dog – but this Leeds United edict that its young Aussie sign-ons, don't play for Australia is not going to go away.

They want them to play for one of the home countries; England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

I recently came across a letter from an ex-pom, now an Aussie citizen, called Jeff Ward on an English soccer chat line (Internet).

However, Mr Ward really shows his true colours with the following: "Leeds are simply protecting their investment to allow easier resale of the player if he doesn't cut it. It's very difficult to sell non-EU nationals because of British and EU laws."

Now the truth comes out, Leeds don't give a stuff about these kids.

They are just cattle that Leeds don't want to lose money on when it comes to slaughter time.

He blames Soccer Aus-

tralia for the whole fiasco for insisting that Harry Kewell come home to play for his country, old news of course but in doing so we were; "hampering Leeds season."

Who gives a toss about poor old Leeds season being hampered, they had and will continue to have plenty of home-grown talent to cover a player for one game.

young players to ran-

som. None of them are the governing bodies of world soccer, that is FIFA.

The only believable and undeniable fact in the whole letter is; "I can't believe that these kids want to swap sun, sea and surf for dull, dingy Leeds."

What more do you need to say?



Bozza: cat amongst the pigeons

Danny Stapleton

Cooma NSW

PS: Just as an aside, it's worth noting that the English Football Association have decided to defuse a potential row with the Leeds Football Club – by not selecting youngsters Jonathon Woodgate and Alan Smith in the England Under-18 squad for next months European Championship qualify-

Consider the Mark Bosnich saga when he refused to play for the Socceroos and he is on record as saying that he isn't keen on coming back again if a certain coach gets the big job.

Players need to feed their families and they can't do that on the broken promises handed out by Paddington.

Just a thought, maybe a few readers have opinions of their own. – Ed.

Vidmar grabbing chance to cement Ibrox future

By Simon Buckland
in Glasgow, Scotland

TONY Vidmar proved he was no quitter when he stayed at Ibrox this (northern) summer even

after Glasgow Rangers had signed one of the best players at France '98 in his position.

His reward for persisting has been an extended run in the Rangers side

with Stg5.5million Dutch international recruit Arthur Numan now ruled out for the season with a serious ankle problem, citing World Cup fatigue.

Yet defender Vidmar admits he fears having to prove his resolve all over again next season with Numan's return likely to herald another spell on the Rangers sidelines.

The Australian international has looked an assured figure on the Rangers left for Dick Advocaat after struggling to impress former manager Walter Smith who first signed him.

The former Adelaide City player has outlined his desire to stay at Ibrox for the remainder of his contract, a further two years, but accepted there were no guarantees.

antees.

"When Arthur Numan came in I thought I might have to move on," Vidmar said.

"He is a quality player and no one could really dislodge him from his position in the team.

"There was a time at the beginning of the season when I thought 'what should I do now', but it is part of my mentality not to give up easily.

"I just wanted to keep going to know I had given it everything.

"I always want to be one of the best in what-

ever I am doing, and it is that extra drive which has given me my chance.

"Once Arthur was injured it was between myself and Stale Stensaas and the manager gave me the nod, but still I had to go out there and produce the goods to earn my recall.

"Last year was a frustrating time for me at Rangers and I played a lot of football in the second team as I wasn't getting a regular run in the position in

which I came to the club I just had to knuckle down and be positive.

"Even so, the future is undecided.

"After the end of the season it just depends on what the manager says and I realise he is bound to bring in players to strengthen the squad.

"There is always going to be a big turnover of players at Ibrox and maybe I am playing for a future which I would like to be here as I'm happy and have no inclination to return to Australia."

CADET JOURNALISTS

Inside Soccer will shortly start an exciting programme for CADET JOURNALISTS. If you would like to take part in our 20-week programme and have the commitment to work under direction then please write a brief letter to the Editor detailing your interests, any writing experience (school magazine etc) and soccer background. Subjects covered in the programme will range through Ericsson Cup, State League and schools/junior soccer.

Applicants should be aged between 14 and 18.

Four Cadets will be started in the programme which will start mid-March and run for 20 weeks. Under an agreement with Soccer Australia restricted press accreditation will be given to all successful applicants.

REPLIES TO:

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Please, no telephone inquiries

Lions looking to roar under Wolfgang

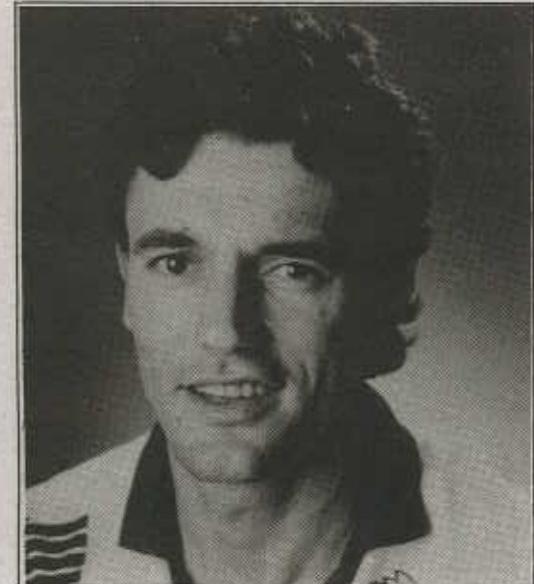
CONISTON Lions are one of Illawarra's traditional soccer clubs, playing for many years at the famous Gladstone Oval.

The Wollongong side which last won the Illawarra Premier League in 1993 and the Championship in 1981 now use J.J. Kelly Park as their home ground.

Future work at the ground which is close to the city centre will include building a new ground entrance and resurfacing of the car park which has been leased from the city council.

"This season the club has great expectations," says spokesman Vasco Vasilievski.

"We are aiming for a Top 5 spot which will demand a lot of commitment from the players



Lupcho Naumovski: the former Sydney United and Wollongong NSL player is in the scheme of things at Coniston Lions

and members."

Inside Soccer's TRIVIA MOMENTS
Sponsored by **SOCERLINE**

WHICH clubs contested last seasons NSL Grand Final?

ANSWER: see Ram Scoreboard, p30.

This season the Lions will be under the direction of Wolfgang Markowski who pulled off the shock of the decade when he guided White Eagles to a championship victory at Brandon Park last season.

Assisting the quietly spoken Markowski will

be Milco Savaevski with Kevin Marsh taking the reserves and Bobby Grbevski the youth grade.

The club will field a number of new signings including former Wolves midfielder Lupcho Naumovski, Robert Sacko, Zia Youman, Vlado Srbicoski, Stojan Dzeparoski and former outstanding Wolves youngster Bill Gjakovski.

Gjakovski is a young player of immense talent and his career with Wollongong Wolves was only halted by injury.

Jason Daskovski, Steve Nikoloski and David Habak will also link up with retained players Lube Talevski, Yane Sekulovski, John Simonovski, Mark Troth, Dean Merola and keeper Skokleski in a squad which has a very new ring about it.

On paper Coniston Lions look a lot stronger than the team which failed to make the Top 5 last time out.

with thanks to
Otto Bader

Life tough for ladies in the Serie A

By Nicholas Rigillo
in Rome

PATRIZIA Panico has a dream, but knows it will never come true.

"My dream is to become like Roberto Baggio, who is recognised in the streets and acclaimed by 50,000 fans at every performance," she says.

"Unfortunately, I do not believe in Utopia. I realise that even if we won the World Cup, everyone would continue to ignore us."

In Italy's women's football scene, Panico is a superstar. She is one of Serie A's most prolific strikers and the worthiest heir of Carolina Morace, the former national team captain who was recently voted second best European female player of the century.

Despite Italy's recent successes at international level - it came second in the 1997 European Championships and has a good chance of making it to the semi-finals of this northern summer's World Cup - women's soccer continues to be neglected in the land of calcio.

While Christian Vieri and friends continue to sign lavish contracts and fill endless amounts of sports pages, Patrizia, who is Vieri's female

alter ego at Lazio, barely makes the local news.

La Gazzetta dello Sport, Italy's most authoritative sports paper, is unable to carve a small column out of its 30 pages to even report the Serie A results.

Her team, Lazio, is the competition's most prestigious club.

Yet, it is forced to play in a forsaken stadium in Riano, off the Rome-Florence motorway, where grazing sheep threaten a pitch invasion at every match.

Only half a dozen out of Serie A's 16 teams have a proper sponsor. Top players are lucky to receive around \$US1,500 (\$A2,350) per month, the rest are content with having their travel expenses reimbursed.

"The problem is not simply one of a lack of money, it has much to do with the chauvinistic nature of our society," Panico said shortly after scoring two goals in the Romans' 5-2 win over Sarzana.

"I was lucky because I come from an open-minded and football-loving family," the 24-year-old said while adjusting her Sydney Hard Rock Cafe cap, a memento from a recent Australia tour with the na-

tional team.

"But many girls are prevented from enjoying their hobby by their own parents."

Panico herself had a difficult start to her footballing career. As a girl, she had problems being accepted by her male friends, who could not stand her being better than them during courtyard kick-a-ball sessions.

Nevertheless, she made it to the Serie A at the age of 18 and is now a permanent member of the national team.

She still manages to continue her law studies at Rome's Tor Vergata University.

Facilities for female footballers are difficult to come by.

There are no dedicated football schools and girls are often prevented from joining the male schools on the grounds that they do not have separate changing rooms at their disposal.

Women's soccer is equated to the male's amateur division and receives no funding from the Italian Football Federation (FIGC).

There about 12,000 women players in Italy, which compares poorly with the 500,000 in Germany.

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Nine man Lions put brakes on Raiders

VPL BIG MATCH REPORT with Bert van Bedaf

THE Preston Lions were in ultra-high spirits after beating neighbouring rival Melbourne Raiders 3-1 with nine men in a frantic second half.

Chris Emsovski put the Lions a goal up after 59 minutes, but Nick Cuculeski put the Raiders level within 30 seconds.

Then in quick succession, Pece Stojcevski was sent off for a second bookable offence and Kosta Smirnis for a heavy tackle, leaving Preston two players short.

But the Lions roared home with a goal each by Tony Kovacic and Joe Kozic.

Last week the Raiders trounced newcomer Altona East 4-0 at Partridge Reserve, which proved a fitting farewell to the former club's home for 25 years.

But the 3-1 loss to Preston has put the brakes on what was a promising start to the season.

On Saturday night the flags will be flying and the floodlights turned on for the first time when they play league leader Port Melbourne Sharks at their new abode, the re-



cently completed Epping stadium.

In other results, Bentleigh Green beat Fawkner 2-0 with goals by John Papettas and Stelios Drakos.

Port Melbourne drew 1-1 with St Albans, with

goals by Dean Fak for the Sharks and Ivan Razov for the Saints, while Green Gully out-gunned Altona East 4-2.

Gully's scorers were Daniel Genovesi, Zlatko Donev, Nick Pappadopoulos and Tony Ne-

ceski, while Billy Petrovski and Nick Papadopoulos struck the net for East.

Green Gully also beat Bentleigh 3-2 in its Monday night match last week, shaping up as a major title contender.

By Bert van Bedaf

A VICTORIAN Premier League match was held behind closed doors last weekend because of fear of crowd disturbances as a result of conflicts happening overseas.

With the Kosovo peace process stalled in Europe and Balkan tensions again escalating between ethnic Albanians and Serbian forces, the Victorian Soccer Federation decided to hold the VPL round-five match between Serbian-backed Springvale White Eagles and Albanian-backed South Dandenong behind locked gates at a neutral ground last Saturday night.

VSF chief executive Geoff Miles said the federation had acted on police advice. "We received police intelligence that groups from outside the soccer clubs were out to use

the fixture for their own purposes. Given the circumstances, we decided to change the fixture. We had strong advice from the police. It was the only option for us," Miles said.

The Eagles beat South Dandenong 2-0 with first half goals from Igor Mandic in the 25th and Sasa Nikolic in the 35th minutes, but the match was overshadowed by its controversial setting.

Neither club was happy with the decision. Originally scheduled for last Sunday

afternoon, at Springvale's Serbian Sports Centre in Melbourne's southern suburb of Keysborough, the VSF decided on the switch late Thursday.

Players were informed of the change at training. South Dandenong spokesman Elvi Ameti believed the lock-out was an over-reaction.

"The conflict is now more than a year old and last season both games, home and away, were played without incidents at either ground. Nothing happened. But this time the VSF was concerned about ground trouble. It decided to have the games played behind locked gates at a neutral ground. Just to make sure there wasn't going to be any tension," Ameti said.

"Maybe some 2,500 people were turned away from the game. That's how things are. Some people can't let go of their past, bringing things over here and introducing their hatreds," he said.

Springvale team manager Steve Janic said the club had lost around \$10,000 in revenue and would ask the VSF for compensation.

"There's at least \$7,000 we lost in takings and then there's the bar money. It's a big loss. We'll sit down with the committee and work something out to ask the referee Gerry Connolly did a good job. But it was different and I wouldn't like to do it again," Brian said.

son's matches between the clubs there had been "only a few little incidents" and he believed this match should not have been switched, because both clubs had security in hand in Keysborough.

"We had things organised. Normally we have four policemen, but we had an extra seven security guards and ten marshalls lined up to check the crowd.

South Dandenong had offered four security guards to check their supporters.

"It would have been safe," Janic said. "But on Thursday afternoon, five o'clock, the VPL co-ordinator (George Angelopoulos) told me the VSF commission has made the decision to play the match at a neutral ground behind locked gates.

"There were 20 policemen at Fawkner and no crowd. If we'd had 20 policemen at

home, there also would not have been a problem. It would have been alright."

Eagles goal keeper Robert Brian described the spectator-less match at Fawkner's C.B. Reserve as "different".

"There were no spectators. You could hear a pin drop. All the players, from both teams, went out to do a job. There was no trouble between the players and the referee Gerry Connolly did a good job. But it was different and I wouldn't like to do it again," Brian said.

Bulleen in front of VPL's Red Card Brigade

By Bert van Bedaf

THE Bulleen Inter Kings had a player sent off in each of the four opening rounds of the Victorian Premier League, which prompted one club member to suggest: "From now on, we may as well start with ten men, we're so used to playing with a man short."

In round one, the Kings lost forward Agim Sherifovski.

In round two stopper Paul Della Rocca was sent off.

Sweeper John Waddell had an early shower in round three, and Vlad Babic was given his marching orders in round four.

Bulleen's spate of red

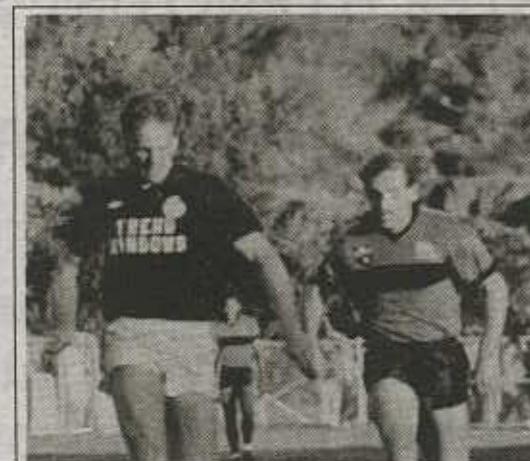
cards were no isolated incidents.

They were part of the first dozen send-offs in an avalanche of fouls.

Following new FIFA rules, first used at last year's World Cup, VPL referees are much more severe on heavy tackles and tackles from behind than in the past.

As a result more players have been sent off in the league than before.

Red-carded players include St Albans forwards Harry Karl and Kon Sianidis, Fawkner's Santo Emmanuele and Enzo De Santis, West-vale's Dennis Bergam and former goal keeper Robert Acteson, Mariano Calomini of Springvale White Eagles and Tony



Gary Cole: wants consistency

Udgunovski of Sunshine.

Now Preston's Pece Stojcevski and Kosta Smirnis can be added to what promises to become a long list for the season.

Bulleen coach Gary Cole said he had no problems with the new rules,

but he did ask referees to be consistent.

"If they stop dirty tackles, fine, but what players and coaches need is consistency, so that they know where they stand," Cole suggested.

WANTED ACE REPORTERS

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Week nights win crowds over

by Bert van Bedaf

THE traditional Sunday afternoon is fast fading as the predominant time to watch soccer in Melbourne.

A move from Sunday to any other day that attracts a crowd has been tried and, if field research is anything to go by, the Monday night has proved by far the most popular soccer hour.

At national league and Victorian Premier league

levels the permutations have been also been tested.

Carlton chose Saturday nights last season and failed.

Now it's the Sunday afternoon and support has marginally improved but not dramatically.

But the club's new ownership will usher in new ideas; one of them is to leave Optus Oval and play at Olympic Park on either Friday or Monday nights.

South Melbourne prefers to play on Sundays, because it tried alternative nights and lost audiences.

Obviously South fans prefer Sundays.

The Melbourne Knights, also regular Sunday customers, changed to a Saturday night recently because both Carlton and South Melbourne were also at home on the Sunday.

The Knights evening crowd proved promising and something for the club's administrators to keep in mind.

The revolution has been refreshing in the Victorian Premier League, so famously once referred to as a "dead fish" by a club official.

Clubs are now trying hard to create an identity and a new niche for themselves.

Four clubs will relegate this season, reducing the VPL to 12 clubs.

Next season will run parallel with the Ericsson Cup as a summer competition and the emphasis will be on competition, primarily the challenge of

how to attract sizeable crowds.

Title holder Bulleen and title contender Green Gully have been at the forefront of experimentation.

When the clubs began playing their home fixtures on Monday nights, attendances steadily grew and consequently they've stuck to it.

Both clubs also are pacesetters in other ways.

The Veneto Social Club, where Bulleen has its home ground, is a prominent venue for a sumptuous meal, a flutter on the pokies and a drink at the bar, apart from watching a game of soccer from the grandstand opposite the club venue.

At the other end of town, Green Gully offers similar gaming and culinary goodies, no grandstand as yet but undercover standing room and the best flood lights of the Premier League.

Each club attracts crowds of between 1,500 and 2,000 per home match, which are big figures for Victorian Premier League standards.

Another VPL club, St Albans, recently played its home match at the Knights stadium on a Saturday night and also attracted a spirited crowd of 1,500.

VPL newcomer Westvale plays its home matches at Green Gully on the alternate Monday night and according to club manager Aki Missios attendances have doubled.

Fawkner, Altona Magic and Port Melbourne have enjoyed Friday nights with encouraging results.

Bulleen regards itself as the front runner of the feverish night activities.

A significant factor is that the Inter Kings, with their strong Italian background, are giving soccer back to the family.

Contrary to the old, all-male, Sunday afternoon stereotype, Monday nights have become family affair.

Bulleen general manager Frank Ruffolo is chuffed with the popular Monday night pilgrimage to Veneto.

"It's a good family night out. There's a good

atmosphere. It's a community gathering. We don't want everybody to grow up behind personal computers watching the internet. People need to interact and socialise and that's what they're doing here," Ruffolo said.

"People have a meal. They might have a drink or play the pokies afterwards.

"It's all part of the entertainment.

"We're in the entertainment industry..

"That's what we've got to sell.

"Although the soccer match is the primary objective, we are building other activities around it.

"The interesting part is that it's not only Bulleen or opposition team supporters who are turning up to home matches.

"Word of mouth has enticed other people with a general soccer interest to come.

"The Monday night has become a bit of niche market for us in the north-eastern side of Melbourne."

North-westwards, down the Tullamarine Freeway,

Green Gully at its reserve lights up like a giant beacon against the Monday evening sky.

Club president Charles Farrugia, who also manages the licensed club, feels rightfully pleased with the night's success.

"Monday nights has paid off financially for us," he says.

"It looked a night with nothing much to do, so we thought why not play on a quiet night and offer people some entertainment."

"The club members have accepted it and we're doing well with crowds of up to 2,000.

"We must find other ways to promote the game, especially to the younger generation.

"If we can't attract the younger people to the game now, soccer will be dead in ten years' time."

Offering night soccer entertainment has shown to be one way of attracting a younger crowd and judging by the activities at Bulleen and Green Gully, the game is far from dying and very much alive.

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Gentleman Jim gets his jersey- after sixty years

By Doug Conway

THE oldest living Socceroo, 90-year-old Jim Osborne, has finally been given what he was never allowed to keep during his playing days - an Australian jersey.

Osborne, of Earlwood in Sydney, was presented with the green and gold jersey on Sunday at the launch of Australian soccer's hall of fame.

"Gentleman Jim", who played in the 1930s and 40s against New Zealand, India, Palestine, China and New Caledonia, said he was paid three pounds a match in the days of leather studs and lace-up balls, but jumpers were

never handed out.

That was put right today in a presentation by former Australian captain Paul Wade and coach Rale Rasic, who took the Socceroos to the World Cup finals in Germany in 1974.

Osborne, born in Newcastle, Australia, was so highly rated by touring English captain Bernard Joy in 1937 that he was offered, but turned down, a chance to play in Newcastle, England.

Having seen Australia come so close to qualifying for last year's World Cup in France, he hopes the Socceroos can climb the biggest mountain again during his life-

time.

"That would be a godsend," he said, "but I'm 91 in May so they'd better hurry up."

His pride in the national colours was reinforced today when former Socceroo Ray Baartz gave a heart-felt message to foreign-based stars who are often leaned on to put club ahead of country.

"Don't bow to the pressure. There is nothing like playing for your country," said Baartz, prevented by injury from playing at the 1974 World Cup.

Baartz, described by Rasic as "the greatest footballer I ever coached", was included for special recognition at the hall of fame ceremony along with almost the entire 1974 team.

It was the first time the team had gathered since the death last year of Jim

Mackay, whose goal got them to Germany.

"We still can't get over it," said an emotional Manfred Schaefer.

Mackay, represented by his son Malcolm, was posthumously awarded the medal of excellence in the hall of fame's inaugural honours.

Players inducted to the hall of champions included former captains Johnny Warren and Peter Wilson, Ottie Abonyi, Jim Rooney and John Kosmina.

Also recognised in other awards were coaches including Rasic, Frank Arok and Les Scheinflug, first women's captain Connie Selby and Harry Williams, the first Aboriginal to play for Australia.

Soccer Australia chairman Basil Scarsella called it "a rare moment in Australian soccer history."

The spokesman said the

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Inside Soccer OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday-Friday 10.00am-5.30pm
Sunday-Monday: copy times only.
General Deadline: 12 noon Friday.

Arrested appear in Court

FIVE police were injured with a female officer forced to use capsicum spray to control crowd trouble at a National Soccer League match in Wollongong on Sunday night.

A police spokesman said three people were charged during the fixture between the Wollongong Wolves and Northern Spirit at Brandon Park.

The spokesman said the

initial incident started at 7.30pm with just a couple of fans but escalated with 28 police and security officers called.

A female officer used capsicum spray when the crowd became unruly and was alleged to have been assaulted by a male supporter.

She was later taken to Wollongong hospital with soft tissue injuries.

Four policemen also received minor injuries

from the melee with one officer hit by a beer can. Two men from the United Kingdom appeared in Wollongong Local Court on Monday on a series of charges including assaulting police, resisting arrest, causing affray and assault causing actual bodily harm.

The third man, a 26-year-old from Leichhardt, was issued with a court attendance notice.

A Soccer Australia spokesman Phil Torpy confirmed police had used capsicum spray and batons to quell a section of supporters.

"Police were concerned about their safety and had to use batons and capsicum sprays," Torpy said. He said the matter would be investigated further.

An Antony Surjan hat-trick inspired Wolves to a 3-2 victory.

Soccer Australia record million dollar loss

By Paul Millar

SOCER Australia has paid a heavy price for failing to make last year's World Cup finals, recording a \$1.3 million loss.

But Soccer Australia chairman Basil Scarsella says that, with prudent management, the federation should have its financial house back in order by September 2000.

At Sunday's annual general meeting in Sydney, Scarsella said the next 12 months would be crucial to the development of the code.

The Socceroos play a World XI at the official opening of the Homebush

Olympic Stadium in June while the Olyroos will fine tune their preparations in the lead up to the Olympic Games.

Scarsella played down the significance of the financial loss which contributed to a total debt of \$2.37 million at September 30 last year, saying it was an improvement on the loss of \$3.4 million in 1997.

The costly international programme for the Socceroos had been a major factor in the loss as well as the lack of a major sponsor, he said, though rejecting the notion that the finances of the Federation relied on the national sides winning games.

"It does not come down to winning games, it comes down to prudent management and making sure that you do not commit yourself to the expectation of winning games because that's a dangerous game to play," said Scarsella.

Things looked much healthier now after Soccer Australia entered into a contract with the International Management Group to promote and secure high-profile international games and also entered into a contract with Channel Seven.

"I think we are well on the way to rectifying the situation with the TV contract finalised and the

IMG contract finalised," Scarsella said.

"It's starting to bear fruits and we have some high-profile internationals not too far from realisation.

"By September 2000 we will have re-established the financial position of Soccer Australia."

Scarsella also made it clear that Soccer Australia would not be appointing an expensive international coach for the Socceroos if the money wasn't there.

"I have no intention of entering into a contract with a coach, or indeed any other contract if we were not able to meet our commitments."

Viduka off the mark at Paradise

By Ken Gaunt

AUSSIE Mark Viduka made his long-awaited debut for Celtic on Saturday and helped them to a dramatic victory.

The £3million Australian striker came on in the 55th minute, and with Celtic a goal down after Billy Dodds had opened the scoring for Dundee United in the 25th minute.

But Craig Burley and Henrik Larsson steered Celtic to victory and left Viduka a happy man.

He said: "I got a marvellous reception from

the fans and I must admit it shocked me.

"For the first 10 minutes I could hardly believe the reception I was given.

"The game was very quick but I've got to be happy with the win.

"It would have been nice to have scored but at least I had a couple of efforts that weren't so far away.

"Dundee United had made it hard for us but it's just nice to get a home game under my belt and get the three points.

"I rang my parents last night in Australia to tell

them that I would be on the bench.

"I am sure they will be finding a Celtic supporters club nearby to celebrate."

Until the dramatic revival the only cheering aspect for the 59,902 fans had been the long-awaited debut of Mark Viduka, signed three months ago from Croatia Zagreb.

Viduka earned a rapturous reception when he replaced Harald Brattbakk but had little chance to shine as Dundee United frustrated Celtic until Burley struck.

Aloisi grabs brace at Villa

By John Curtis

AUSSIE bargain buy John Aloisi hammered two goals to secure Coventry City's first ever league win at Villa Park after a wait of 63 years.

Aloisi, snapped up for a cut-price Stg700,000 (\$A1.8 million) from cash-strapped Portsmouth in December, ensured that the Sky Blues 24-game sequence without a win at their Midland rivals' headquarters came to an end with a resounding 4-

1 victory.

The former Cremonese player was in the starting line-up only because of a shoulder injury to Noel Whelan.

Aloisi took his chance with a vengeance, scoring the opener and the decisive third goal to smash Villa's hopes of a second-half revival.

Then midfielder George Boateng rubbed salt into Villa's wounds by also firing a double to silence the Villa majority in the 38,000-plus crowd.

Mark Bonsu's Villa has now collected just one point from its last five games.

Tax bid boost for Cup

GERMANY'S bid to host the soccer World Cup in 2006 received a boost when the Finance Ministry declared it would not tax the huge revenue the tournament would generate.

Finance Minister Oskar Lafontaine said the decision to surrender potential tax income was "very, very painful".

"But we wanted to give our footballing friends an equal chance," he told

reporters after talks with Franz Beckenbauer and the German Football Federation (DFB) in Bonn.

Beckenbauer, the former soccer captain and coach who is leading the German bid, welcomed the decision, saying it put Germany on a level playing field with rivals also thought to be benefitting from tax exemption.

"We're catching up pretty well now," he said.

"England got off to a

good start but we've drawn level now."

Aside from Germany and England, South Africa, Brazil, Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria and Ghana are bidding for the competition, with the final decision due to be made by soccer's ruling body FIFA next March.

Under German law, organisers of sporting events on German soil have to pay a flat tax rate of 25 per cent.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 5

Saturday 6th March

Fairfield Bulls v Parramatta Eagles

Ninevah Field, 6:00pm

Bonnyrigg White Eagles v Macarthur Rams

Serbian Centre, 6:00pm

Sutherland Sharks v Ryde City

Seymour Shaw Park, 7:00pm

Sunday 7th March

Bankstown City Lions v Eastern Suburbs

Jensen Park, 5:00pm

Leichhardt Tigers v Central Coast

Lambert Park, 5:00pm

Canterbury Marrickville vs Blacktown City Demons

Henson Park, 6:00pm

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Stubborn Knights put down by Champion Lions

By Tony Moran

REIGNING Champions, Brisbane City, showed they have no intention of giving up their title lightly with a hard fought win over a stubborn Ipswich Knights in the Queensland Premier League.

In spite of far from ideal conditions-steady rain for most of the game making the surface heavy and slippery-both teams turned on an entertaining performance for the small but vocal crowd.

Two early errors by the City midfield put their defence under pressure.

Goalkeeper Adriano Taraborrelli had to race from his goal to deflect John Clark's effort wide, then a Wayne Strange tackle blocked Peter Vogler's shot.

City settled down and started to exert some pressure.

This was rewarded with the opening goal after nine minutes.

Damien Waugh fired in a low, long range effort which was slightly deflected by Royce Brownlie.

Knights goalkeeper Sam Ferguson got down well to his right to parry the shot.

However, Warren Cooley was perfectly placed to turn the rebound back into the unguarded net.

This brought an immediate response.

On the 11 minute mark, Clark fed an accurate through ball towards Vogler, with Taraborrelli again quickly off his line to save at his feet.

Two minutes more, and the home side were level.

Sweeper Nick Seeley popped up in the City penalty area and went down under Scott Elliott's challenge.

Referee Richard Coutts pointed to the spot, despite City's protests that Seeley had dived, and Elliott was yellow carded.

Peter McKendrick sent Taraborrelli the wrong way with the penalty.

It was end to end stuff, both sides creating chances.

Knights: Ferguson, Caldwell, Seeley, (T. Scott), C. Scott, Hinks, (Guest), Jefford, Clark, McKendrick, Drinkeld, Adams, (Gacesa), Vogler.
City: Taraborrelli, Cooley, Strange, (Voss), Elliott, Waugh, Slater, Brownlie, Haddow, Jenkins, Tuck, (Carloss), Geminelli.

Chris Slater for City sent a powerful shot from distance straight at Ferguson, before Clark created a shooting chance for Vogler but he shot wide from a good position.

Knights Peter Hinks was the first yellow card after 26 minutes, hauling back Mark Jenkins as he raced clear towards the penalty area.

Seeley joined him just a minute later for a two footed tackle on Shane Haddow.

On the half hour mark, Slater pounced on a mishit clearance, his shot taking a deflection, Ferguson having to react quickly to push it away.

City regained the lead three minutes later, with practically a carbon copy of their first goal.

Waugh's effort this time was a 25 metre free kick, saved brilliantly by Ferguson, flying to his right to fist the ball clear.

Again, though, it fell straight to Cooley, and again, he calmly converted the chance.

Ferguson, justifiably, berated his defence for lack of cover.

The second half opened with another yellow card to the home side, Clint Scott the culprit after pulling Brownlie back by the shirt.

Vogler fired two half chances narrowly over around the 55 minute mark as Knights went after an equaliser.

At the other end, Haddow and Cooley created a chance for Jenkins, whose spectacular volley from a narrow angle was beaten away by Ferguson.

City coach Bobby Hamilton was spoken to by Mr. Coutts after leaving his bench to argue with a referee's assistant who flagged for a free kick against Brownlie as he raced clear.

In the 71st minute, Slater spotted Ferguson off his line and tried an audacious chip shot which dipped too late and just cleared the bar.

Three minutes later, Knights created their best chance of the half.

"There's not many

An intricate free kick move between McKendrick and Brenley Jefford set up Seeley, and his 22 metre left foot rocket was fisted away by Taraborrelli.

Elliott almost scored a freak goal a minute later.

A free kick from five metres inside his own half bounced on the Knights six yard line, shooting up over Ferguson but also over the bar.

Thereafter, Ferguson made himself the home team hero, keeping his side in the game four times in the final 15 minutes.

First, after 79 minutes, he dived bravely at Brownlie's feet, then went full length to palm away a header from substitute Nathan Carloss.

Vogler was then yellow carded for bundling over Mark Geminelli.

Five minutes later, Slater put Waugh clean through on goal, but Ferguson just got a touch to his shot to deflect it against the post.

And a minute later, he capped a fine performance in beating away a powerful Brownlie effort from point blank range.

Unfortunately, his efforts were in vain.

His team mates could create nothing up front, and City won more comfortably in the end than the scoreline suggests.

A valuable win for City, a 100% record at this early stage getting their title defence off to a solid start.

Knights did enough, for 75 minutes anyway, to suggest that they will be competitive.

Not many teams will leave Ipswich with all three points this season.

In the only Saturday game (due to the Strikers being at home), Rochedale went up to Bundaberg and came away with the points.

The goals were scored by Kieran Cooper, Ross Davidson and Matt Olley for Rovers, whilst Nick Maas, and Philippe M'Balla replied for the Waves.

For Kieran Cooper, it's business as usual after a season playing Commercial League.

The QPL's leading goalscorer for ten of the eleven seasons prior to his retirement in 1997, is back on target, and has



Queensland scoring legend Kieran Cooper

teams who'll go up there and come away with anything this season," he said.

"Bundaberg have got a stronger squad than last year, and we had to fight all the way for the points."

The goals were scored by Kieran Cooper, Ross Davidson and Matt Olley for Rovers, whilst Nick Maas, and Philippe M'Balla replied for the Waves.

For Kieran Cooper, it's business as usual after a season playing Commercial League.

The QPL's leading goalscorer for ten of the eleven seasons prior to his retirement in 1997, is back on target, and has

one eye on the Golden Boot again this season.

His record of 209 goals in 233 appearances for City and Rochedale over an eleven year period will be difficult to beat, and he's shown that he's lost none of his striking abilities after a year out.

On Sunday the two heavyweights of the QPL, Brisbanes City and Lions both kept up their 100% records, with wins over Ipswich and Mount Gravatt respectively.

City went to Bundaberg, and came away with the spoils when Warren Cooley struck twice for last seasons minor premiers, with Peter McKendrick replying with a penalty

for Ipswich.

At Richlands, Lions won 4-2, with two goals from Stephen Starr, and one each for Darren Sime and Robbie Laslo. Ex-Brisbane Striker Andy Brayshaw and Andrew Garwood-Gowers scored two for the mounties.

Newly elected Toowoomba United fell to their second loss in as many weeks, as they went down 4-1 to the only other unbeaten side, Gold Coast.

Goals from Ian Hutchison, Steve Mack, and two from Neil Ferguson was enough to send the Raiders back home licking their wounds.

Steve Willmot opened

the Toowoomba XXXX goal account for the season, but it wasn't enough to bring them their first points.

So after two rounds the competition is beginning to take a familiar shape with City and Lions heading the ladder, and the Gold Coast sneaking into third place just above Ipswich.

Next week sees City hosting the Gold Coast in the match of the round, with Taringa entertaining Ipswich at Jack Speare Park.

Rochedale and Lions should see off Wynnum and Toowoomba respectively, and the other fixture between Mount Gravatt and Bunaberg could go either

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE ROUND-UP

With Roy Hay

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Carlton v VIS

Carlton and the Victorian Institute of Sport played a thrilling two-all draw in Carlton's final match at Optus Oval, with the home team's equaliser coming five and half minutes into injury time.

In the first half the VIS was dominant with strikers Scott McDonald and Angelo Motsopoulos on fire.

It took all the skills of Dean Anastasiadis to keep them at bay until the 23rd minute when McDonald fired in a shot which the keeper could only parry and David Terek put the rebound past him.

Juan Sastre's run took him to the bye-line in 36 minutes and his cross was finished off by Motsopoulos.

The keeper made two stops in succession to deny the strikers before Sastre hit the third chance over the bar.

The second half saw a transformation as Carlton came storming back, giving a run to five of the Academy players who had won the Powerade Youth League Grand

Final the day before.

Ace Stojcevski fired a free kick through the wall and past Martin John in 85 minutes, then deep into injury time Alex Jofifovski scored from a suspiciously offside position from a cross by Steve Martin.

This produced the right result, though the VIS boys were not amused.

Albury v Falcons

Albury Wodonga led Gippsland Falcons by two-nil early in their clash at Myrtleford, but the valley boys hit back with six goals, three in each half.

Damien Cassar got two of them, brother Ben one, and the others came from Tony Pardo, Michael Katz and Denis Mustac.

Knights v South

Melbourne Knights beat South Melbourne by two goals to one in a tight, high quality match at Knights Stadium.

Lance Plunkett opened for the Knights after forty minutes, but it was not till 80 minutes that Hrvoje Matkovic, one of the stars of the future, scored Knights' second.

Three minutes later Mustafa Mustafa converted a penalty kick for the Blues to set up a grandstand finish, but the home team held on.

NORTHERN DIVISION

NSWIS v QAS

New South Wales Institute of Sport's Simon Catanzaro decided the away game with Queensland Academy with the seventh goal in 87 minutes after the teams had been locked at three-all from just after half-time.

Dylan McAllister scored first for the Institute on the half-hour, and Sean Cranney equalised six minutes later. Russell Miner then put QAS ahead in 40 only for Tony Doumanis to make it two-all in 42.

Shane Smeltz's goal in 45 was cancelled out again by Doumanis and it seemed that there would be no further change until Catanzaro popped up with his fourteenth of the season.

AIS v United

The Australian Institute of Sport beat Sydney United by five goals to one in Canberra.

Elias Demourtzidis took his tally to twelve by completing his hat-trick and Kevo Gulesserian scored twice for the AIS. Steven Jordan scored for United.

Nick Guoth reports: It was all one way traffic... one way to Sydney for what must have been 40 minutes of the first half.

They scored a very well deserved goal in that period of time and should have scored another three easily, but for poor finishing.

Then a 'Red-Card Penalty' was awarded to AIS when a Sydney player handled on the line to save a shot.

Ex-AIS keeper Barney Smith couldn't save the spot kick from Elias.

The second half was the complete opposite of the first with the AIS on top and they scored four more to trounce Sydney.

Had the player not been dismissed, this could have been a great game and perhaps Sydney United would have won.

Marconi v Spirit

Marconi Fairfield struggled to a one-nil over Northern Spirit Colts,



Gabriel Mendez: Scored for Spirit in the National Youth League

which had chances to draw or even win the game.

Luke Tomich got the only goal on the half-hour. Todd Macrae up front, keeper Chris Sharpe and midfielder Nathan Foti were superb for the Colts.

Spirit v Wolves
Northern Spirit gained a

fine two-one away win over Wollongong Wolves.

Ray Younis scored for the Wolves, and Adam Griffiths and Gabriel Mendez for the winner.

Olympic v Academy
Sydney Olympic took nine goals without reply from its Academy team. Adrian Cervinski did the

damage with four, and the rest were spread around individuals, Lee Miot, John Kyazopoulos, Josef Corrente, Leo Carle and Anthony D'Apuzzo.

ACTAS v United
Nick Guoth reports: The Sydney United Colts v ACTAS was postponed owing to flooding of

Black double sees Pirates win at the third attempt

By Nick Guoth

THE South Australian Sports Institute Buffalo Pirates defeated the Canberra Eclipse 2-0 in the Final of the Women's National League in Canberra last Sunday.

For the Pirates, it was the third Final and having lost to Queensland in the first year and NSW last year, they were not going to make it three in a row.

SASI's coach Kevin McCormack was very relieved and stated "we have been the most consistent team through the last three years."

Canberra, missing their two central defenders in Amy Taylor and Traci Bartlett as well as the competition's leading scorer, Lisa Casagrande, all through injuries struggled against the more committed South Australians.

"We hoped we could hold out for the first half and then attack in the second" said Canberra coach Ian Murray, but two Sharon Black goals before the interval all but sealed the result.

SASI attacked from the start and the good sized crowd of 852 were entertained by some sweet shooting and a goal-keeping display, from



Amy Taylor: the Matilda was injured and out of the Eclipse side

Canberra's Belinda Kitching, that was nothing but superb.

It took 13 minutes for the first goal, but all well deserved given the early pressure.

A cross from the right was not cleared properly by Cindy Doyle, who was playing in defence at the time.

The ball went to Kristy

Moore and her cross was partially blocked by Sarah Cooper but straight to Black who's shot lobbed over Kitching and under the bar.

The two forwards, Kristy Moore and Jessica Halfpenny were having a field day up front for the Pirates.

Moore was easily

the work she did up front and setting up the goals.

She had four shots, three of which drew great saves from Kitching.

With five minutes remaining in the half, a kick-out from Kitching to the lone forward Angelo Iannotta was not handled properly and the rebound went all of 20m to find Moore.

Kristy turned and sent the ball wide to Black.

Sharon's cross come shot flew over Kitching and came in off the far post.

Changes needed to be made for Canberra, and mainly in defence.

For a team that was trying to hold out for the first half, there were a number of holes in the defence and the marking left a little to be desired.

This was addressed at the break, but then SASI had started to drop back a bit.

The Eclipse came more into the game in the second period.

Still they needed Kitching at her best and as early as the 52nd minute from a Kimberley Morris header off a corner.

Iannotta then decided to put on a show, creating chances at every opportunity.

Substitute Kim Channing gave Angela her first chance a few minutes after coming on, but Iannotta's shot went well

over.

Then Channing herself had a shot saved well by Tracie Wheeler.

A few changes allowed Canberra to reform and in doing so moved Doyle into the forward line.

Now it was the Pirates turn to defend desperately.

Iannotta had another good chance just over 10 minutes from the end when Doyle pulled a ball back, but she shot wide from 15m out.

With the Eclipse pushing forward there was always going to be a chance for a counter-attack.

With not too long to go, a flowing move ended with Black passing the ball to Louisa Bisby and her first time shot was tipped over the bar.

Canberra continued to put pressure on, but could not finish.

Channing had the last real shot in anger, but that went wide as did any chance to win the trophy.

McCormack said after

the match: "It was the good start and Sharon Black's finishing that made the difference.

"We created chances from a number of good corner kicks.

"The midfield showed excellent teamwork and the defence with Wheeler in goal was solid cancelling out all the chances."

Murray agreed that SASI were the better team.

"We had no strike power, nothing up front, we didn't finish well," he said.

"In the first half we were non-existent, but in the second we played better.

"Overall we were a bit jaded.

"Belinda Kitching definitely kept us in the game."

Ian also was not happy with his more experienced players in the first half and felt that the game plan wasn't followed properly.

Canberra: Kitching, P-C. Heppell, Foxhill (Pele 73), Wainwright, Iannotta, Doyle, D. Heppell, Foot, Kilpatrick (Channing 53), Cooper, Wilson

SASI: Wheeler, Moore (Matto 87), O'Shea (Thomas 29), Bisby, Morris, Alagich, Swaffer, Halfpenny, Black, Morrison (Ruotolo 77), Spagnoli (Wynn 81)

Referee: T. Ogston

Plucky Cosmos downed

By Nick Guoth

A SPIRITED Canberra Cosmos struggled to hold out their more illustrious opponents of Sydney Olympic when they lost 1-0 last Monday night.

On the back foot most of the time, the ever improving Canberra outfit came very close at the end to snatch a draw.

Yet it was one of the youngsters on the park, and soon to represent his country yet again, Brett Emerton, who stole the show.

His poise and skill with the ball and the accuracy of his passes was enough to cause no end of head-

aches for the home team. His position in the Under 20 team for Nigeria is certainly guaranteed.

Canberra had the first chance in the game when a Doug Marcina corner found Amarildo Miglietti on the edge of the box.

He muffed his first time shot and there was no recovery as the defence took over quickly.

After that, the game started to move into hibernation mode as neither side could penetrate each other's defence, most of the problems owing to poor passing.

Yet it was Olympic who emerged from the slumber first.

Twenty minutes in and it took a Lindsay Wilson extended left leg to beat Scott Thomas to the ball after a cross from the left.

A few minutes later and Emerton set up Jason Culina, but he skied his chance.

Olympic then decided that the long shot was better than a build up and with Wilson Knezevic in goal for the Cosmos, these were easy pickings.

The Cosmos themselves had rare chances, but most of the time, the last pass left a lot to be desired.

The half fizzled out slowly with Olympic sending yet another 25m

attempt over the bar.

Discussion at the break for a - voured

Canberra as they came out the more aggressive, but this was to be their only real period of domination.

Only a few minutes past and a free kick from Ivo De Jesus found Peter Buljan, his header going agonisingly wide.

The locals continued to apply the pressure but the likes of Durakovic and Blagojevic were solid in defence.

Nine minutes after the break, Emerton received the ball in a somewhat harmless position on the right touchline.

He showed a quick turn of speed and manouvered past the languishing Paul Roberts.

With PJ hard on his heels, Emerton went to the goal-line and then sent in a rocket of a ball to the centre of the six-yard box.

With bodies everywhere in this area, the ball was sure to ricochet off someone and Norman Tome was the lucky person, angling his head in the right direction.

The goal was rather against the run of play, but after the first half it

was well deserved.

The locals kept up the pressure of the previous ten minutes, now trying to find the equaliser instead of the go-ahead goal. A De Jesus cross went to substitute Anthony Magnacca, but his header was contested too strongly and the ball fell to a defender to clear for a corner.

Then, with twenty minutes to go, it was all Olympic and everyone was waiting for the visitors to add to their tally.

What they found was desperate defence and a little luck for the home side.

Pablo Cardozo, who had been very quiet up to now, was given a superb chance to increase his lead in the EC goal tally.

A through ball found him free on the edge of the box with time to turn and shoot.

His blast had Wilson Knezevic stranded, but the woodwork came to the rescue. Not more than a minute later, a run down the left and into the box by Culina saw him shoot across the goal.

The ball bounced back off the upright and with Tome racing in to finish off the chance, out of nowhere came Amarildo to clear off the line.

Next it was Knezevic's turn to be the man of the moment.

He was faced with two one-on-one's in less than two minutes.

This first from Emerton and the second from Tome.

On both occasions, Wilson showed his skills and thwarted the opportunities.

Ten minutes left and this time it was Cardozo who was robbed by an Amarildo clearance off the line and five minutes later Culina saw his long shot tipped over the bar.

Well into injury time, Canberra had a great chance to grab a share of the points.

A free kick from the left side of the box was curled in by De Jesus.

It curled and curled but too far for any of the on-rushing Cosmos players to get the needed touch to redirect the ball goalward.

Olympic coach Branko Culina was pleased with the three points stating that Canberra had improved since the 5-0 thrashing they received at Belmore. He also said he played Tome only because Norman always scores in Canberra.

Tom Sermanni on the other side said he had: "No complaints at all."

"We defended very well."

"I thought it was the best we've played at home."



Tome: always scores against Canberra

CANBERRA COSMOS 0
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 (Tome)
Venue: Bruce Stadium
Man of the Match: Brett Emerton SOLY

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Tommy pops up with late equaliser for Breakers

A GOAL in the 87th minute to midfielder Tom Haythornthwaite enabled a lethargic Newcastle Breakers to snatch a 2-2 draw in their Ericsson Cup clash with Adelaide Sharks at Austral Park on Friday night.

Haythornthwaite was ideally placed to coolly side-foot the ball home from the edge of the penalty area after Breakers striker John Buonavoglia had dribbled his way past three defenders and cut the ball back from the by-line.

The first chance of the game fell to the Sharks in the fifth minute when

striker Alex Duric was let free at the far post but his shot was deflected wide by the legs of Breakers goalkeeper Bob Catlin.

Two minutes later the Breakers created their first chance when left back Brad Wieczorek set up Buonavoglia but the little striker screwed his shot wide with only Sharks goalkeeper Nathan Wildy to beat.

Sharks defender Ritchie Alagich moved upfield ten minutes later and fired a shot from 20m that Catlin saved comfortably while at the other end Wieczorek tested

Wildy from a similar distance before Breakers striker Faoud Umlil tested the keeper with a free kick from the edge of the penalty area.

The game came alive in the 38th minute with a goal from Buonavoglia.

He managed to spring the Sharks offside trap racing onto a smart through ball from midfielder Mark Wilson before rounding Wildy and touching the ball into the empty net.

Catlin had to be brave early in the second half diving at the feet of Sharks striker Derek Poimer as he bore down

on the Breakers goal.

In the 59th minute Breakers skipper Shane Pryce earned a yellow card for a foul on Poimer as the big striker burst through and looked certain to score.

But the Sharks got their just reward from the ensuing free kick when midfielder Corey Artone curled the ball around the defensive wall and into the top corner of the net.

Shortly afterwards Buonavoglia wasted another glorious opportunity to regain the lead for the Breakers when he was again through but once again screwed his shot wide.

The Breakers were made to pay for their wasteful finishing in the 73rd minute when the dangerous Poimer again confused the defence

before putting the ball back from the by-line for Alex Castro to slot home from 15m.

The Breakers looked to be heading for a rare home defeat until Haythornthwaite rescued the game for them with his late equaliser.

Breakers' coach Lee Sterrey conceded that a Top Six berth for his team was not now a

realistic proposition.

"We'll need to win six of our last seven to do that," he admitted.

"We've had an ordinary week with injuries, illness and suspensions but our character kept us going and we are now in a comfortable mid-table position."

Shark's coach Adrian Santrac was pleased with the preparation of his

side.

"Before I took over we'd gone six games without a win and now we managed to put the outside distractions to one side.

"We've turned the results around and I think we've improved tactically," Santrac added in a direct swipe at outgoing coach Manfred Schaefer.



Alex Castro: the Sharks midfielder got his side's second goal in a 2-2 draw.

Crowd riot sours Surjan hat-trick as Wolves upset

By Mike Driscoll

AN ANTONY Surjan hat-trick inspired Wollongong Wolves to a 3-2 victory over Northern Spirit in Sunday's National Soccer League clash at Brandon Park.

Surjan scored twice in the opening 10 minutes and added a third on 52m to give Wollongong only its sixth victory of the season.

But the win was marred by crowd trouble behind the Northern goal during half time.

Eight supporters were ejected and taken to Wollongong police station charged with various offences including resisting arrest, crowd disruption and abusive language.

The incident started with just a couple of fans but escalated with 28 police and security officers called.

A Soccer Australia spokesman Phil Torpy confirmed police used capsicum spray and batons to quell a section of supporters.

WOLLONGONG 3 (Surjan 3)
NORTHERN SPIRIT 2 (Slater, Bingley)
Venue: Brandon Park
Man of the Match: Antony Surjan WOLL

"Police were concerned about their safety and had to use batons and capsicum sprays," Torpy said.

"We're investigating the matter further and there'll be a debriefing after that match."

The Wolves produced some of their best play of the season to upset the much fancied Spirit.

Wollongong 2-0 after just ten minutes through Surjan's double strike.

Young midfielder Scott Chipperfield received Surjan's pass to create the opening goal on nine minutes with Surjan on hand to head home the cross.

Surjan blasted Wollongong's second just a minute later with a 25m strike into the top corner.

It was as good a goal as seen at Brandon Park this

season.

Robbie Slater slipped between defenders to head the Spirit back into the game with a goal on 24 minutes.

But the Wolves, who created a host of chances went 3-1 ahead on 52 minutes when Surjan combined with Esali Masi to score.

Matthew Bingley made it 3-2 on 67 minutes and Wolves defender George Souris had to clear off his goal line to prevent a Spirit equaliser just minutes later.

But Wollongong were the superior team and had a number of chances to make it 4-2 with skipper Matt Horsley, Paul Reid and substitute Steve Karavataxis all going close.

Surjan was outstanding for Wollongong while Chipperfield was always a threat and Souris dominated at the back.

ERICSSON CUP SOCCER

Ericsson Cup Round 23: 5/8 March
Friday 05 March

Northern Spirit v Adelaide City

7.30pm

Saturday 06 March

Brisbane Strikers v Wollongong Wolves
Suncorp Stadium 7.00pm

Sunday 07 March

Gippsland Falcons v Sydney Olympic
Mobil Park 7.00pm

Sydney United v Melbourne Knights
Edensor Park 5.00pm

Adelaide Sharks v Marconi Fairfield
Hindmarsh Stadium 7.00pm

Monday 08 March

Canberra Cosmos v Carlton
Bruce Stadium 7.00pm

Bye: Adelaide City

Postponed: South Melbourne v Perth Glory

NOTE: all information believed correct at time of going to press. Please check with daily press, your club or Soccer Australia for changes to scheduled kick offs.
ASF (02) 9380 6099, Adelaide City (08) 8336 9077, Adelaide Sharks (08) 8351 9866, Brisbane Strikers (07) 3252 5327, Carlton (03) 9389 6213, Canberra Cosmos (02) 6281 7981, Gippsland Falcons (03) 5134 5529, Marconi Fairfield (02) 9823 2222, Melbourne Knights (03) 9699 4188, Newcastle Breakers (02) 4951 2722, Northern Spirit (02) 9460 2187, Perth Glory (08) 9383 9911, South Melbourne (03) 9645 9797, Sydney Olympic (02) 9558 5355, Sydney United (02) 9823 6418, Wollongong City (02) 4226 3988

Five goal haul: Marconi are back

By Anthony Raineri

A HAT-TRICK by Marconi-Fairfield captain Brad Maloney helped kill off Gippsland Falcons 5-1 despite two dismissals in the national soccer league at Marconi Stadium on Saturday night.

Maloney, a midfielder, is now Marconi's leading scorer with 10 strikes and could have had a fourth goal for the match had he not missed a penalty six minutes into injury time.

An uneventful first half exploded into life in the 34th minute when referee Matthew Breeze sent off a player from each team.

Marconi striker Francis Awaritefe and Gippsland midfielder Clayton Bell went for the ball and Awaritefe was promptly

red carded by Breeze as the Victorian rolled along the ground in agony.

As soon as Awaritefe stood up, veteran Gippsland defender Claudio Canosa raced to the Marconi player and shoved him to the ground with both hands.

Players ran in and the situation threatened to get out of hand but calm was soon restored and Breeze sent off Canosa.

Marconi coach Frank Farina said Awaritefe's sending-off was a harsh decision.

"They both went for the ball and Francis got it,"

Farina said.

"I think it was more the sound of the two boots colliding which did it for the referee."

"Soccer is a contact sport."

"It's very difficult to touch the ball in a tackle and not make contact with the player."

Marconi were the first team to exploit the extra space on the field and opened the scoring only two minutes after the dismissals.

Midfielder Darren McDonald had a long-range low drive at goal which Gippsland goal-

keeper Bojo Jevdjovic blocked with one hand.

The rebound fell into the path of a fully-launched Maloney who blasted home his eighth goal of the season.

Apart from the two red cards, Breeze booked five players in the first half but nobody in the second half.

Marko Perinovic had Gippsland's best first half chance when his 27th minute jumping point blank header was saved by Marconi goalkeeper Ante Covic.

English midfielder Marcus Phillips extended



Marconi's lead nine minutes after the break when he received Brendan Renaud's corner, dribbled inside his marker and drove home through a forest of defenders.

Maloney snared his second and Marconi's

third in the 62nd minute after good work by Zeljko Babic in the middle of the field.

The 27-year-old completed his hat-trick 12 minutes later when Phillips broke away with the ball to set up his captain. Babic's incisive running

was rewarded eight minutes from time with a well-taken goal.

Gippsland's goal came from Olyroo defender Levent Osman who dribbled into the penalty box, beat two defenders and slotted home.

Finals hopes fizzles in no-score draw

By Tony Moran

IT WAS important that the Strikers didn't lose a third match in succession against Melbourne Knights in their NSL match at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday night.

With stalwarts Gwynne and Zoricich both suspended the backline was severely depleted.

In came Matt Bell, back after injury, and Nick Meredith moved to left back, with Chay Hews and Kasey Wehrman in central midfield.

The pattern of the game was consistent for the 90 minutes.

The Strikers applying all the pressure, the Knights soaking it up, and attempting to score on the break.

Steve Laybutt received a yellow card for a crude challenge on Kelic, but it was on one of the Knights rare forays into the Strikers half of the field.

The first half saw the Strikers final passes regularly going astray.

Wehrman's angled balls into

the box were consistently cut out by the Knights organised defence, and Harper, also back from injury, never really posed a threat.

Des Hughes and Jeremy Harris couldn't get to the by-line, as they like to do, and the half fizzled out with the Knights obviously content to settle for a point.

In the second half, things began to warm up, with McLaren hitting the post with a header - the first of three strikes that hit the woodwork.

Twice he made a half-break, and decided to pass to a teammate, when he should have been greedier, and gone alone.

Both chances came to nought.

Meredith also hit the woodwork, and McLaren hit the post for a second time late in the half, just about summing up the Strikers frustration.

Tollenare and Knipe were both introduced at the expense of Harper and Hughes, but the result had been decided long before that.

Tollenare did look to give the Strikers a bit more buzz up front, but he couldn't get the room he needed to make a difference.

In the final minutes, the Strikers worst fears nearly came to haunt them once more

as Kutlesovski broke from half-way.

His shot beat Bolton, and

cleared and set up yet another fruitless Strikers attack.



Man of the match Nick Meredith, but this was a match Brisbane badly needed to win to make the Top Six

BRISBANE STRIKERS 0
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0

Venue: Suncorp Stadium
Man of the Match: Nick Meredith BRIS

Krnceanic's Blues blow out of Optus with loss

By Alan Clark

CARLTON played their last league game at Optus Oval in their 1-3 defeat at the hands of Sydney United, and from now on will play home games in the more football-friendly surrounds of Olympic Park - one of the first decisions taken by the club's new ownership.

Coach Eddie Krnceanic couldn't blame the stadium for the defeat, but did single out his more senior players for pointed post-match criticism.

"I'm wondering whether some of them know what the word professional means," he said.

"I'm disappointed."

"We didn't want (the win) - there was no passion."

"In our next season there will be some changes."

"In our last seven games I want people who are willing to put their body on the line."

"At this stage there are some

CARLTON 1 (Tricarico)
SYDNEY UNITED 3 (Day 2, Plesa)
Venue: Optus Oval
Man of the Match: David Barrett SUTD

players who are not willing.

"It was our worst game in the eighteen months we've been here."

"By far."

"Quite a few players let the team and the club down."

"You expect a lot more from the players especially when they're full-time."

"Next year we won't be as lenient."

"That's all I can say on that."

Sydney United managed to put a string of recent reverses behind him - only one point of the last nine had been taken - and puts the team's Championship aspirations back on track.

Coach David Mitchell, whose name had appeared as

one of four substitutes on the team-sheet as Abbas Saad had been added in his place at the last minute, said: "I pulled a muscle during the week in training."

"I thought I would have been alright, but funny enough Abbas was down here and was coming to watch us play and I said to Abbas 'Look if you're alright, I'd rather have you on the bench' because I didn't want to do anything silly and pull my thigh muscle."

"I'm just so happy for the players that they got the result."

The win was even more meritorious as United had played one short for the last

34 minutes - Ante Moric had been dismissed for his second yellow-card eleven minutes into the second half, and put the result in balance at the point when the Sydney-siders' win was assumed.

Joe Tricarico had scored for Carlton just moments before, but Sydney had already put three past Adrian Cagalj and there seemed no way back for Carlton.

Nathan Day had stunned the home support in the eighth minute from United's first parity of note.

A Carlton goal-kick was headed forwards from the half-way line falling nicely for Steve Berry on the wing.

Berry beat Sean Douglas on the turn, but it was Douglas' attempt at a clearance which sent the ball in Day's path, with David Cervinski stranded.

Day ran on and found the far corner despite Adrian Cagalj's

covering attempt.

The lead was extended just before the break on a break.

Marcus Stergiopoulos had linked with a Carlton attack but his shot was blocked, rebounding to Joel Griffiths at the half-way line.

Griffiths beat Douglas' jockeying and cut back over the head of Stergiopoulos who had raced back to cover.

Moric shaped to shoot, but astutely dummied instead allowing Richard Plesa the full face of Cagalj's goal as a target.

Two minutes after the resumption, Day again popped up in exactly the right position for the third.

Griffiths had ridden challenges from Stergiopoulos and Andrew Marth in the centre-circle, laying off a square pass to Berry who sent the ball forward for Day.

Day turned Cervinski and shot from the 18 yard line.

Tricarico brought back some hope for Carlton just two minutes later, and that, combined with Moric's dismissal gave hope of a Carlton revival. Tricarico finished a move in which he had earlier featured, scoring from ten yards from a clever cut-back from Con Anthopoulos on the bye-line.

But it was not to be, despite Carlton's expected pressing.

The experienced Mike Gibson managed anything that escaped the vigilant marking of Plesa, Joe Vrkic, David Barrett, and Peter Bennett who collectively snuffed out the danger posed by Tricarico, a disappointing Alex Moreira, and the mercurial Archie Thompson.

So it's farewell to Optus Oval, and not before time.

Football at this level deserves a more suitable venue, and fans deserve a better deal.

Cardozo misses prove costly

By Ted Simmons

LEADING scorer Pablo Cardozo cost Sydney Olympic a valuable win when he missed a penalty in the national soccer league 1-1 draw against competition leader South Melbourne at Belmore Sports Ground on Sunday.

Cardozo also missed another opportunity in the final minute when his shot from close range went wide.

Olympic had dominated most of the play and restricted South Melbourne's opportunities and the Victorians failed to test the Sydney keeper George Bouhoutsos at any stage in the match.

"We had the better of the play but the penalty

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 (Tome)
SOUTH MELBOURNE 1 (Tsekinis)
Venue: Belmore Sportsground
Man of the Match: Mehmet Durakovic SOLY

miss and the second opportunity by Pablo cost us the game," said Olympic coach Branko Culina.

"The loss of the additional points today was a huge blow, especially as our midfield attacker Jason Culina will be leaving for overseas as well as the players we will lose to the Young Socceroos."

Olympic flew into action from the opening whistle, pushing the South Melbourne defence back and creating chances wide on both wings.

The tactics paid off in the 14th minute when a Cardozo corner from the left was dummied by Peter Tsekinis and the ball rolled to Norman Tome who pushed it into the far corner of the net.

It was the 50th goal for Tome in the league.

South Melbourne continued to play a waiting game, closely marking the Olympic strikers Tome and Cardozo and levelled the score with an unexpected goal 11 minutes from halftime.

"I knew Olympic would be excited and pumped up and we treated the match as an exercise to play an away finals game," said South Melbourne coach Angie Postecoglou.

"It was a soft goal that we conceded but I thought that we controlled the game well considering the hostile

environment."

Postecoglou agreed that referee Eddie Lennie was correct in his decision to award a penalty two minutes into the second half when defender Nick Orlic brought Peter Tsekinis to the ground.

Cardozo stepped up to take the spot kick and the crowd groaned in disappointment when his shot hit the crossbar.

Olympic kept close check on the dangerous visiting trio of Paul Trimble, John Anastasiadis and Vaughan Coveney.

The South Melbourne strikers had few opportunities to penetrate the Olympic goal area with close attention being paid to them by defenders Milan Blagojevic and



Mehmet Durakovic: outstanding for Olympic

Mehmet Durakovic.

Olympic were the more adventurous and swifter in moving the ball down-

field but their play fell away in the final third through poor finishing and poor crosses.

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INTERNATIONALS

UNDER 20 CHALLENGE	
Tuesday 23 February	
Australia 2	South Korea 3
Venue: Parklea	
Thursday 25 February	
Australia 1	South Korea 5
Venue: Parklea	

NEW SOUTH WALES

SUPER LEAGUE: First Grade, Round 4	
February 27/28	
Blacktown City 0	Central Coast 1
N Byrn 47	
Macarthur Rams 1	Ryde City 1
E Williams 27	R Kethel 68
Sutherland Sharks 1	Leichhardt Tigers 5
C Tolson 89	H Kdouh 34, 81
	C Lansdowne 27, 77
	S Boudaher 67

Fairfield Bulls 2	Canterbury M'ville 1
M Hoenselaars 61	S Christoforidis 6
M Borg 75	

Eastern Suburbs 1	Bonnyrigg White Eagles 4
P Pullicino 74	
o.g. 15	
D Harding 48	
R Gomez 50	J Ghiso 89

Parramatta Eagles 1	Bankstown City Lions 0
G Bard 30	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Macarthur Rams	4	3	1	0	11	6	10
Leichhardt Tigers	4	2	1	1	9	5	7
Bonnyrigg	4	2	1	1	12	9	7
Fairfield Bulls	4	2	1	1	8	7	7
Central Coast	4	2	1	1	6	7	7
Parramatta Eagles	4	2	1	1	4	5	7
Blacktown City	4	2	0	2	6	4	6
Bankstown City	4	2	0	2	9	9	6
Canterbury	4	1	2	1	9	6	5
Ryde City	4	0	2	2	5	8	2
Eastern Suburbs	4	0	1	3	4	10	1
Sutherland Sharks	4	0	1	3	3	10	1

SUPER LEAGUE: Under 21, Round 4	
February 27/28	
Blacktown City 2	Central Coast 2
Macarthur Rams 1	Ryde City 4
Sutherland Sharks 3	Leichhardt Tigers 4
Fairfield Bulls 1	Canterbury M'ville 3
Eastern Suburbs 1	Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0
Parramatta Eagles 3	Bankstown City Lions 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Bonnyrigg WE	4	3	0	1	7	1	9
Macarthur Rams	4	3	0	1	9	5	9
Eastern Suburbs	4	3	0	1	6	4	9
Blacktown City	4	2	1	1	9	6	7
Canterbury	4	2	1	1	8	5	7
Fairfield Bulls	4	2	0	2	5	5	6
Central Coast	4	1	2	1	7	7	5
Parramatta Eagles	4	1	2	1	8	11	4
Leichhardt Tigers	4	1	1	2	8	11	4
Ryde City	4	1	0	3	7	8	3
Sutherland Sharks	4	1	0	3	5	10	3
Bankstown City Lions	4	0	1	3	3	11	1

SUPER LEAGUE: Under 18, Round 4	
February 27/28	
Blacktown City 3	Central Coast 1
Macarthur Rams 2	Ryde City 1
Sutherland Sharks 0	Leichhardt Tigers 1
Fairfield Bulls 0	Canterbury M'ville 0

ERICSSON CUP 1998/99

		home				away				Pts		
		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A
1	South Melbourne	21	9	1	0	23	8	4	4	3	17	14
2	Perth Glory	21	6	1	3	24	10	5	2	3	22	15
3	Sydney United	21	7	2	2	23	11	5	1	5	15	16
4	Sydney Olympic	21	8	2	1	25	9	2	3	5	10	17
5	Northern Spirit	21	6	2	2	14	7	5	0	6	15	22
6	Adelaide City	20	7	3	1	25	9	3	1	5	10	11
7	Carlton	21	7	2	2	29	12	2	2	6	12	20
8	Marconi Fairfield	20	6	1	2	24	13	3	2	6	12	24
9	Brisbane Strikers	20	5	4	2	18	12	3	1	5	11	19
10	Newcastle Breakers	21	4	4	3	14	13	2	2	6	7	15
11	Wollongong City	20	4	4	2	20	13	2	2	6	12	24
12	Adelaide Sharks	20	4	4	2	19	13	2	2	6	10	20
13	Gippsland Falcons	20	3	2	5	6	13	1	3	6	7	24
14	Melbourne Knights	20	2	2	6	13	16	2	3	5	9	17
15	Canberra Cosmos	21	2	0	9	8	19	0	2	8	7	21

Eastern Suburbs 2	Bonnyrigg 0						
Parramatta Eagles 6	Bankstown City Lions 1						
Canterbury Marrickville	4	3	1	0	12	5	10
Macarthur Rams	4	3	0	1	7	3	9
Leichhardt Tigers	4	3	0	1	4	3	9
Parramatta Eagles	4	2	1	1	9	3	7
Blacktown City	4	2	1	1	7	5	7
Ryde City	4	2	0	2	6	6	6
Bankstown City	4	2	0	2	10	11	6
Eastern Suburbs	4	1	1	2	6	6	4
Bonnyrigg	4	1	1	2	5	8	4
Central Coast	4	1	0	3	6	9	3
Sutherland Sharks	4	1	0	3	3	9	3
Fairfield Bulls	4	0	1	3	1	8	1

Sunshine Georgies	4	1	0	3	3	8	3

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9 Wynnum District	2 0 0 2 1 5 0
10 Toowoomba United	2 0 0 2 1 7 0

ILLAWARRA

CORRIMAL LEAGUES CLUB CUP: Round 3	
Sunday 28 February	
GROUP A	
Bellambi 0	South Coast United 1
Bulli 4	Balgownie Rangers 1
Barbarians 2	Illawarra United 3
Port Kembla 3	Helensburgh Thistle 0
GROUP B	
Tarrawanna 0	Corinton Lions 2
Dapto 1	Albion Park 0
Picton Rangers 2	Aborigines 4
Wollongong Olympic 3	Western Suburbs 3
GROUP C	
Fernhill 1	Shellharbour City 5
Corrimal Leagues 0	Highlands United 2
Berekley 1	Wollongong W Eagles 5
Woonona 0	Kemblawarra 1
GROUP D	
Kiama 2	Wollongong Amateurs 1
Warilla Wanderers 0	Shoalhaven City 2
Northern United 2	University 0
Cringila Lions 1	Lysaghts 1

NAT. YOUTH LEAGUE

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE	
National Youth League: Round 22	
Southern Division	
Saturday 27 February 1999	
Albury Wodonga 2	Gippsland Falcons 6
Sunday 28 February 1999	
Carlton 2	VIS 2
Melbourne Knights 2	South Melbourne 1
Bye v Bulleen Inter	
Northern Division:	
Round 21	
Monday 22 February 1999	

ACTAS 0	Sydney Olympic 4
Round 17	
Wednesday 24 February 1999	
Sydney United v Marconi Fairfield	
(To be rearranged)	
Round 22	
Friday 26 February 1999	
Newcastle Breakers v Wollongong Wolves Colts	
(To be rearranged)	
Saturday 27 February 1999	
QAS 3	NSWIS 4
AIS 5	Sydney United 1
Sunday 28 February 1999	
Marconi Fairfield 1	Northern Spirit Colts 0
Wollongong Wolves 1	Northern Spirit 2
Sydney Olympic 9	Olympic Academy 0
Bye v Marconi Fairfield Colts	

ERICSSON CUP

Ericsson Cup Round 21	
Monday 22 February	
Canberra Cosmos 0	Sydney Olympic 1
Venue: Bruce Stadium	
Crowd: 2,420	
Referee: M Breeze	
CANB: Knezevic, T Popovich, L Wilson (Musitano 72), Zelic (Magnacca 68), Marcina, Buljan, Miglietti, Roberts, De Jesus, Gonzales, Hunter	
SOLY: Bouhoutsos, Thomas, Tsekenis, Tome (Juric 83), Culina, Cardozo, Emerton, Augerinos (Zorbas 70), Baillie, Durakovic, Blagojevic	
Cautions:	
CANB: Zelic (33), Roberts (37), Hunter (57)	
SOLY: Emerton (26), Cardozo (34), Augerinos (45)	
Ericsson Cup Round 22	
Friday 25 February	
Newcastle Breakers 2	Adelaide Sharks 2
Buonavoglia 39	Arton 59
Haythornthwaite 88	Castro 74
Venue: Breakers Stadium	
Crowd: 3,204	

Referee: E Brazzale
Cautions: T Haythornthwaite (NB) 56'; S Pryce (NB) 59'; C Arton (NB) 89'

Saturday 26 February
Brisbane Strikers 0 - Melbourne Knights 0
Venue: Suncorp Stadium
Crowd: 3,510
Referee: S Micallef
Cautions: S Laybutt (BS) 29'; M Trpkovic (MK) 88'
BRIS: Bolton, Bell, Laybutt, Harper (Tollenaire 79), Wehrman, McLaren, Hews, Harris, Meredith, Hughes (Knoie 82), Davidson
MELK: Didulica, Nastevski, Jolic, Kovacevic, Kelic, Kiratzoglou, Susa (Trpkovic 82), Deak (Magdic 68), Reda (Rajher 73), Banini, Kutlesovski

Marconi Fairfield 5 - Gippsland Falcons 1
B Maloney 35, 61, 72 L Osman 68
M Phillips 55
Z Babic 80
Venue: Marconi Stadium
Crowd: 3,122
Referee: M Breeze
Cautions: A Savage (GF) 3'; W Hastie (GF) 10'; C Care (MF) 16'; B Farrah (MF) 33'; Z Babic (MF) 61'
Red Cards: F Awaritefe (MF) 30'; C Canosa (GF) 30'
MARC: Covic, Gibson, Phillips, Kim, Care (Zoric 23), McDonald, S Babic (Trajanovski 80), Maloney, Farah (Hooker 75), Awaritefe, Renaud
GIPS: Jevdjetic, Hopkins, Osman, MacNicol, Bell (Anderson 65), Hutchinson, Canosa, Perinovic, Hastie, Puca (Vargas 68), Savage (Belevnovski 65)

Sunday 27 February
Perth Glory 3 - Canberra Cosmos 1
B Despotovski 7 de Jesus 78
A Edwards 75, 86
Venue: Perth Oval
Crowd: 12,072
Referee: S Hasic
Cautions: A Edwards (PG) 31'; G Hunter (CC) 55'; I De Jesus (CC) 58'; M Musitano (CC) 72'; J Harn-

(Curcija 69), Goutzioulis, Tsekinis, Liparoti

Carlton 1 - Sydney United 3
J Tricarico 48 N Day 7, 46
R Plesa 44
Venue: Optus Oval
Crowd: 3,144
Referee: M Shield
Cautions: A Marth (CSC) 15'; A Moric (SU) 33'; C Anthopoulos (CSC) 63'; L Lapsansky (CSC) 76'; J Vrkic (SU) 80'
Red Card: A Moric (SU) 55'
CARL: Cagalj, Anthopoulos, Stergiopoulos (Della Rocca 71), Douglas, Marth, Bresciano (Oularis 87), Moreira, Lapsansky, Thompson, Tricarico, D Cervinski (Grbac 76)
SUTD: Gibson, Barrett, Kupresak, Plesa, Vrkic, Bennett, Ardene, Berry, Moric, Griffiths, Day (Townsend 65 (Saad 89))

Wollongong Wolves 3 - Northern Spirit 2
A Surjan 9, 11, 51 R Slater 22
M Bingley 66
Venue: Brandon Park
Crowd: 5,679
Referee: B Hugo
Cautions: N Spencer (WW) 47'

Leading Ericsson Cup Scorers

- 17 Pablo CARDOZO (SOLY)
- 12 Damian MORI (ADL)
- 11 Vaughan COVENY (SMEL)
- 11 John MARKOVSKI (PRTH)
- 11 Alex MOREIRA (CARL)
- 11 Mile STERJOVSKI (SUTD)
- 10 Brad MALONEY (MARC)
- 9 Michael CURCIJA (SMEL)
- 8 Peter BULJAN (CANB)
- 8 Ivan KELIC (MELK)
- 8 Archie THOMPSON (CARL, +4 GIPS)
- 7 Con BOUTSIANIS (PRTH)
- 7 Bobby DESPOTOVSKI (PRTH)
- 7 Derek POIMER (ADSH)
- 7 Kresimir MARUSIC (SPRT)
- 7 Robbie SLATER (SPRT)

- 1 Nathan DAY (SUTD)
- 3 Michael GARCIA (PRTH)
- 3 Troy HALPIN (PRTH)
- 3 Des HUGHES (BRIS)
- 3 Chris KALANTZIS (SOLY)
- 3 Vas KALOGERACOS (PRTH)
- 3 Harry KARL (MELK)
- 3 Lubo LAPSANSKY (CARL)
- 3 Stephen LAYBUTT (BRIS)
- 3 Goran LOZANOVSKI (SMEL)
- 3 Stuart McLAREN (BRIS)
- 3 Dino MENNILLO (ADLC)
- 3 Scott MILLER (PRTH)
- 3 Levent OSMAN (GIPS)
- 3 Greg OWENS (NEWC)
- 3 Reece TOLLENAERE (BRIS)
- 3 Paul TRIMBOLI (SMEL)
- 3 Carl VEART (ADLC)
- 3 Daniel WATKINS (SPRT)
- 2 Corey ARTONE (ADSH)
- 2 Elias AUGERINOS (SOLY)
- 2 Tansel BASER (SMEL)
- 2 Paul BILOKAPIC (SPRT)
- 2 Michael BROOKS (WOLL)
- 2 Christian CARE (MARC)
- 2 David CERVINSKI (MELK)
- 2 Scott CHIPPERFIELD (WOLL)
- 2 Sean CRANNEY (BRIS)
- 2 Brett EMERTON (SOLY)
- 2 Chad GIBSON (MARC)
- 2 Chay HEWS (BRIS)
- 2 Ivo de JESUS (CANB)
- 2 Ante JURIC (SOLY)
- 2 Dongi Ki KIM (ADLC)
- 2 Pan KIM (MARC)
- 2 Brian MacNICOL (GIPS)
- 2 Andrew MARTH (CARL)
- 2 Jason POLAK (SMEL)
- 2 Joel PORTER (ADSH)
- 2 Shane PRYCE (NEWC)
- 2 Paul REID (WOLL)
- 2 Mark RUDAN (SPRT)
- 2 Michael SANTALAB (SUTD)
- 2 Mike SMITH (MARC)
- 2 Zelko SUSA (MELK)
- 2 Dino TERMINELLO (ADLC)
- 2 Hamilton THORPE (ADSH)
- 2 Danny VIDAKOVIC (ADSH)
- 2 Andy VLAHOS (CARL)

- 2 Kasey WEHRMAN (BRIS)
- 2 Mark WILSON (NEWC)
- 2 Chris ZORICICH (BRIS)
- 1 Richie ALAGICH (ADSH)
- 1 Ransford BANINI (MELK)
- 1 David BARRETT (SUTD)
- 1 Sasho BELEVNOVSKI (GIPS)
- 1 Clayton BELL (GIPS)
- 1 Peter BENNETT (SUTD)
- 1 Steve BERRY (SUTD)
- 1 Matt BINGLEY (SPRT)
- 1 Vinko BULJUBASIC (PRTH)
- 1 Jacob BURNS (SUTD)
- 1 Nick CARLE (OLY)
- 1 Joe CALETA (SUTD)
- 1 Alex CASTRO (ADSH)
- 1 Alvin CECCOLI (WOLL)
- 1 Adrian CERVINSKI (SOLY)
- 1 Giancarlo CIRCATI (PRTH)
- 1 David CLARKON (SMEL)
- 1 Ian CROOK (SPRT)
- 1 Jason CULINA (SOLY)
- 1 Michael CUNICO (SPRT)
- 1 Saso DIMOSKI (WOLL)
- 1 Steve EAGLETON (UTD)
- 1 Robbie ENES (SPRT)
- 1 Andy HARPER (BRIS)
- 1 Will HASTIE (GIPS)
- 1 Danny HAY (PRTH)
- 1 Tommy HAYTHORNTHWAITE (NEWC)
- 1 Karl HROVJE (MELK)
- 1 Harry JAMES (NEWC)
- 1 Alex JOSIFOVSKI (CARL)
- 1 teve KARAVATAKIS (WOLL)
- 1 Hrovje KARL (MELK)
- 1 Alex KIRATZOGLOU (MELK)
- 1 Ice KUTLESOVSKI (MELK)
- 1 Leo LANGONE (CANB)
- 1 Dominic LONGO (MARC)
- 1 Darren McDONALD (MARC)
- 1 Paul MAGDIC (MELK)
- 1 Doug MARCINA (CANB)
- 1 Esala MASI (WOLL)
- 1 Robbie MARKOVAC (CARL)
- 1 Nick MEREDITH (BRIS)
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well (PG) 78'
PRTH: Franken, Trajkovski, Miller, Circati, Harnwell, Deans, Strudwick (Naven 65), Garcia, Edwards, Despotovski (Kalogeracos 80), Boutsianis (Halpin 79)
CANB: Knezevic, T Popovich (Burt 46), Wilson, Marcina, Buljan (Magnacca 74), Miglietti, Roberts, De Jesus, Gonzalez, Hunter
SOLY: Bouhoutsos, Thomas, Tsekenis, Tome (Juric 83), Culina, Cardozo, Emerton, Augerinos (Zorbas 70), Baillie, Durakovic, Blagojevic
Cautions:
CANB: Zelic (33), Roberts (37), Hunter (57)
SOLY: Emerton (26), Cardozo (34), Augerinos (45)

- 7 Joe TRICARICO (CARL)
- 6 Francis AWARITEFE (MARC)
- 6 John GIBSON (ADSH)
- 6 Joel GRIFFITHS (SUTD)
- 6 Brad HASSELL (ADLC)
- 6 Norman TOME (SOLY)
- 5 John ANASTASIADIS (SMEL)
- 5 Jeremy HARRIS (BRIS)
- 5 Sasho PETROVSKI (WOLL)
- 5 Anthony SURJAN (WOLL)
- 5 Kris TRAJANOVSKI (MARC)
- 4 Zeljko BABIC (MARC)
- 4 Marco BRESCIANO (CARL)
- 4 John BUONAVOGLIA (NEWC)
- 4 Simon COLOSIMO (CARL)
- 4 Alex DURIC (ADSH)
- 4 Alistair EDWARDS (PRTH)
- 4 Matt HORSLEY (WOLL)
- 4 Sang-Choi YOON (NEWC)
- 4 Ray YOUNIS (WOLL)
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